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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th: 'Arafat-Peres Meeting To Settle Issues

NC0402114794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the meeting between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo on Monday [7 February] will settle numerous issues regarding the document formulated in Davos, Switzerland, last week. In a statement to MENA today, Sha'th said the Davos document is considered to be an integrated deal, stressing that the Palestinian party will not commit itself to implementing its obligations in the document unless the Israelis implement the articles relating to them.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that the Palestinian-Israeli meetings were scheduled to continue in Cairo after the 'Arafat-Peres meeting in Davos but the Israeli party suspended them until after 'Arafat and Peres meet in Cairo. He noted that the Palestinian-Israeli committee meetings are expected to resume in Cairo directly after the 'Arafat-Peres meeting in Cairo.

Dr. Sha'th highlighted that the Palestinian party can perform its tasks in running the self-rule administration in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area immediately after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

MENA has learned that differences occurred between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres over the Davos document. Palestinian sources told MENA that the main dispute within the Israeli leadership focuses mainly on who should take the credit for achieving tangible results and reaching an agreement with the Palestinian party.

Delegates Conclude Negotiations in Washington

PLO, Israel on 'Practical' Discussion

TA0302170794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] The 12th round of peace talks in Washington ended today. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports that the delegation heads will meet again in approximately two weeks. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will then leave for a tour of the Middle East.

In the talks between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations, it was agreed that the parties would discuss the establishment of the Palestinian council, decide on the modalities of the elections in the territories, and modify laws in the territories prior to the inception of Palestinian self-government. However, any practical discussion of these issues would only start after an agreement on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First proposal has been signed. U.S. sources assessed that due to the delay in the negotiations on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, the elections for the autonomy council would be postponed and would not be held this summer.

Some progress on environmental issues was reported in the talks between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations.

Buwayz: Talks To Resume 15 Feb

NC0302213794 Paris AFP in English 2103 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Beirut, Feb 3 (AFP)—Arab-Israeli bilateral peace negotiations will resume February 15 in Washington at the delegates' level, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said Thursday [3 February].

The 12th session of the bilateral talks which began on January 24 ended Wednesday in Washington.

The negotiations were held at secret locations at the heads of delegations level between Israelis, Lebanese, Syrians, Jordanians and Palestinians.

Reasons for Talks Suspension Given

NC0402075994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Although generally vague, the picture in Washington clearly shows that the suspension of the peace talks at the level of delegation heads, although decided upon by the United States—or jointly by the United States and Russia—was done at the Israelis' request, as our office in Washington reported yesterday. Our correspondent told us that Israel asked for the postponement for two reasons:

1. To try to hold secret talks with Syria parallel to the Israeli-Palestinian talks in Oslo. The [London-based] AL-HAYAH reported this, citing Syrian sources. It said the Israeli negotiators have asked for secret negotiations, but the Syrians have been categorically rejecting any secret contacts or any departure from the course of the negotiations as established in Madrid and continued in Washington.

2. To take a break to assess the results of Geneva summit between Presidents Clinton and al-Asad.

These two reasons have been confirmed, as our correspondent told us in a direct telephone call this morning. He added a third reason:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The two reasons have been confirmed, and our radio has learned of a third Israeli reason for the postponement: Raising the level of representation at the next round of talks. During their meeting, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asked U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to try to get the concerned Arab parties, especially Syria and Lebanon, to raise the level of negotiations. [end recording]

Our correspondent said that no official date for the resumption of the 12th round of peace talks has been fixed. The negotiations will resume on 15 February at the chief delegates' level.

What did the State Department spokesman say?

[Begin correspondent recording] A State Department spokesman said that after consultations with the concerned parties, the cosponsors of the peace process proposed suspension of the peace talks being conducted at the chief delegate level for a short time to give the parties enough time to consult with their governments. The negotiations will resume on 15 February with the same format—at the chief delegate level.

The truth, however, is that the U.S. announcement is based on an Israeli request. Heads of the Arab delegations, therefore, are dissatisfied. In our conversations with them, the heads of the Lebanese and Syrian delegations did not show any enthusiasm for the decision, and they initially decided to stay in Washington during the hiatus and to contact their governments by telephone and facsimile.

The U.S. State Department spokesman ruled out the possibility that a tour of the Middle East by Secretary of State Warren Christopher is imminent. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Arms Control Committee Concludes Meetings in Cairo

NC0302211194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—The Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security emanating from the multilateral Middle East peace talks concluded its meetings in Cairo this evening. During its five days of meetings, the committee discussed the two issues of arms control and regional security arrangements. It also discussed working papers and ideas submitted by Egypt and Jordan and a joint Russian-American working paper, a compilation of what was discussed during the committee's previous meetings.

The group also discussed a paper submitted by the International Atomic Energy Agency on measures to inspect nuclear weapons.

During the meetings, members also formulated a joint paper to be presented to Mideast capitals to form an official opinion and prepare for the paper's presentation during the meetings of the General Committee slated to start in Doha at the end of April.

MENA has learned that the coming meeting of the second working group will be held in Turkey during March to prepare for the meetings of the General Committee.

Some 19 countries, including the United States and Russia, will participate in the meetings of the Arms Control Committee.

Official Holds News Conference

NC0402105494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, adviser to the foreign minister and chairman of the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security stemming from the multilateral Middle East peace talks, stated that Egypt has expressed its willingness to host the proposed Middle East Regional Communications Center once the parties to the multilaterals agree to set it up. He explained that the center will serve the cause of arms control and regional security.

At a news conference last night following the working group's five-day meetings, Fahmi said the meetings addressed several issues in an in-depth discussion to define the long-term goals involving all the parties concerned in the region. He noted that discussions will resume at subsequent meetings.

He pointed out that the discussion touched on an attempt to launch a project concerning "a declaration on regional security and arms control in the Middle East," outlining the general principles that should govern security ties among regional states in time of peace.

Fahmi added that the talks discussed specific principles concerning regional security arrangements, the rules that should govern arms control, and the objectives the parties concerned seek to achieve in the field of arms control.

He added that the Cairo meetings achieved an initial success beyond that which the proposed working paper sought to achieve. But, he remarked, particular points need to be given form and the delegations need time to submit the working paper to their governments before the working group can publicize it.

The chairman of the Egyptian delegation pointed out that the talks also discussed the necessary measures to verify military activities in their various aspects, since this verification is fundamental to build confidence and to reach an agreement on arms control. It is a means of ensuring that all the parties are honoring their commitments, he said.

Fahmi said the working group discussed a Russian proposal to establish a data bank on regional security and arms control as well as another proposal to establish a regional crisis management center and a regional communications center. [passage omitted]

Fahmi was asked about particular delegations' objections to the joint Russian-U.S. paper that was submitted during the meetings. He explained that the proposed

paper was neither American nor Russian but a compilation of the views expressed by regional states at previous meetings. Naturally, some states suggested some amendments, he remarked, adding: Tangible progress was made on many aspects of the items included in the working paper. The United States and Russia put forward a joint working paper on arms control at the beginning of the meetings but the Palestinians objected to it, noting that it was an attempt to give new interpretations to established political principles.

Ambassador Fahmi was asked about the Israeli concentration on the issue of regional security and its overlooking the arms control aspect. Fahmi replied that it is natural for each party to have its own priorities. What we saw at these meetings was a wide and exhaustive discussion of the various issues, including regional security arrangements and arms control arrangements, he said. He remarked that several delegations took part in the discussion in accordance with their stances.

At the news conference, Fahmi pointed out that Israel took part in discussing every subject. We can say that the Israeli delegation demonstrated its readiness to discuss issues. We hope the coming meetings will procure a working paper that helps take real steps to curb armament, he said.

Fahmi stated that the next working group meeting will be held in Turkey in March. But he added that it will be exclusive to regional states and that an expanded meeting will be held in the Qatari capital for both regional and nonregional states.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Official on Lifting of Libya Sanctions

LD0402093894 Tripoli JANA in English 0842 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Addis Ababa, Al Nowar [Feb] 4—JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The assistant secretary general of the Arab League has called for the lifting of the harsh measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by resolutions manipulated through the so-called 'Security' Council. He said that the continuation of these sanctions would be a blatant injustice and a mockery of small nations, principles of international law and the United Nations Charter.

In a speech to the 59th session of ministers of the Organisation of African Unity in Addis Ababa, the assistant secretary general of the Arab League said that we call for all resolutions adopted by the Arab League, the Organisation for African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organisation and the Nonaligned Movement to be complied with.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Urges Action To Stop Escalation in Bosnia

LD0302222794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1750 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Jeddah, 3 Feb (SPA)—Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary-general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], expressed the organization's great concern over the escalation of (?aggressive) campaigns waged by Serbs and Croats against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a statement issued today, the secretary-general condemned attempts by Serbia and Croatia to wipe out the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the map by intensifying attacks, increasing direct military intervention, declaring general mobilization, and other means.

He said that despite the clear and candid resolutions of the UN General Assembly and many resolutions of the UN Security Council, the prevarication of some of the main forces has prevented the UN from implementing its resolutions or endeavoring to impose them. He pointed out the dangers in securing a resolution based on the assumption of a possibility of restoring peace by imposing arbitrary and unjust conditions on the victims of the conflict.

The ICO secretary-general reaffirmed the ICO's full solidarity and support for the government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He urged the international community, particularly the UN Security Council's permanent members, to take effective action to stop further escalation of violence. He also called for the adoption of a principled method on the issue by all the sides concerned, including the European Union, so that a just peace may be restored in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Hawks Chief Said Killed by IDF Troops

NC0302143094 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Feb 3 (AFP)—Israeli soldiers disguised as Arabs shot dead a leader of the armed wing of the PLO's main group Fatah on Thursday [3 February] in the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

The troops, including women soldiers, opened fire from two cars at a group of Fatah Hawks sitting on the road in the Rafah refugee camp. Salim Mu'affi, the Hawks leader for the camp, was killed and another Palestinian wounded.

The Hawks fired back, wounding two members of the army's undercover unit, the sources said. The army sent in reinforcements and imposed a curfew as explosions were heard in the camp.

The armed wing of Fatah agreed to a ceasefire after the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord was signed on September 13.

But dissidents took up arms again after the army shot dead a leading Hawk, Ahmad Abu-Rish, in November shortly after he had been pardoned. The dissidents said earlier this week they had mounted seven anti-Israeli operations.

Muwafi was the 1,173rd Palestinian killed by Israeli gunfire in the six years of the intifada against Israel's rule of Gaza and the West Bank, according to an AFP toll.

Fatah Declare 3-Day Strike

TA0402052994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Leaders of Fatah in the Gaza Strip have declared a three-day general strike in protest against the killing of Salim Mu'affi, who was shot to death yesterday by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops. Two other Palestinians were seriously wounded in the clash with IDF soldiers, which took place in Rafah.

Islamic Jihad on 'Toppling' Palestinian Negotiators

JN0302192794 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] The Islamic Jihad in Palestine has issued a statement on the intifadah entering its 77th month, in which it hails the heroic people of the intifadah, their great sacrifices, and their confrontation of the treasonous agreement. It praised the Alliance of Palestinian Forces. It said that this alliance constitutes a political drive of the large-scale massive rejection of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and is solid ground for unifying our people in their confrontation of the dangers threatening them.

The Islamic Jihad statement added: Toppling those who are negotiating with the Zionists in the name of our people requires an extensive popular action to prove to the whole world that this desperate team does not represent our people, and therefore, cannot determine their future. This team's agreements are not binding on our people. We must all move within cohesive national ranks to show the whole world that those negotiators only represent themselves and parochial interests.

The Islamic Jihad in Palestine called on the valiant people of the revolution to direct their bullets to the chests of the occupiers.

On the occasion of the blessed month of Ramadan, the month of jihad and sacrifices, it said: We call on all the sons of our people to strictly adhere to God's teachings, to safeguard the sanctity of the blessed month, to abide by the principles of the true religion, to carry out more acts of jihad, and to escalate the intifadah activities. It declared 6 February a day of comprehensive strike and popular indignation all over Palestine.

PFLP-GC Cable Urges Continued Struggle

JN0302191894 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] The Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has sent a cable of greetings to the members of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], on the DFLP's 25th anniversary.

The cable says: To the dear comrades, you know these national occasions, in the book of national strugglers and revolutionaries of national liberation, provide a good opportunity for assessment of past achievements in their struggle.

This anniversary comes amid very complicated and difficult circumstances brought about by international, regional, Arab, and national developments fraught with dangers that target all of us, Arabs and Muslims. The results of these developments and the way we respond to them will determine the fate of our people's cause, their rights, and national existence, as well as the fate of the rights of Arabs and Muslims, their present, future, and national, regional, and human role.

The cable adds: Historic responsibility entails missions to be performed by all Arab and Islamic forces that are committed to the defense of inalienable, historic rights and that are aware of the comprehensive visible dangers. The purpose of this is to foil plans to recognize the Zionist enemy and normalize relations with it, support Palestinian national steadfastness in the face of the conspiracy, and emphasize the Arab and Islamic dimension of the cause and the conflict. We think that our present situation and national performance play a major role in the nation's awakening to assume its responsibilities.

DFLP Group Claims Attack Against 'Collaborator'

JN0302194594 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Red Star Battalions, affiliated with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], claimed responsibility for the armed operation that targeted a collaborator with the Zionist enemy, named 'Ayn Mim from the Ra's 'Atiyah village.

The statement said the Martyr 'Umar al-Qasim Group opened fire on him in al-Sabi' Street in Qalqiliyah the day before yesterday, injuring him in the head. The enemy forces transported him to hospital.

Opposition Plans To Be More Territories-Based

PM0302145794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p5

[Ruba al-Husari report: "After the Clinton-al-Asad Meeting and With the Possibility of Peace Between Syria and Israel, the Palestinian Opposition in Damascus Prepares To Shift Its Main Weight to the Occupied Territory"]

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—As the momentum of Arab-Israeli negotiations increases, particularly after the meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Bill Clinton which opened the way for the return of Syria and Israel to the negotiating table in Washington, the Palestinian resistance based in Damascus finds itself at a crossroads and might be compelled to speed up the transfer of its political and struggle weight from the diaspora to the occupied territory.

Supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the largest opposition faction, which is based in Damascus and shares internal opposition influence with Hamas, say that the process of gradually shifting the leadership to the occupied territory actually began last year in implementation of the PFLP's fifth general congress resolutions. But the al-Asad-Clinton meeting came as a warning that the conclusion of a peace treaty between Israel and Syria would occur sooner than the PFLP leaders had originally expected.

The branches of the Damascus-based Palestinian opposition factions in the occupied territory were worried when al-Asad and Clinton met in Geneva in mid-January. Some of them admitted that the opposition card would have a price and that the Syrian president would demand that price, particularly as the request for *muzzling* that opposition is primarily an Israeli request. Representatives of the various Palestinian factions in the occupied territory have jokingly wondered about the next station, and some suggested Yemen while others mentioned "even Iran."

One of them said that "it is natural for any Arab leader to put his interests before any other interests, and nobody can claim that Syria has carried the Palestinian opposition on its shoulders or that it has defended that opposition." Representatives of these trends rule out the possibility of any future confrontation with Damascus for signing an agreement with Israel, and they believe that the natural choice would be to look for another host state "where there are no Israeli representatives and no threat to our lives."

A PFLP official added: "Our options are very limited. The first priority is having the command headquarters in the cordon states, but as these states are now leaning toward signing an agreement with Israel, that would leave only the second tier of cordon states, namely Sudan and Iraq, which is out of the question at the present time."

The first warning the Damascus-based factions had since the Palestinian resistance left Lebanon in 1982 was the 1991 Madrid conference, when the cordon states—that is Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan—and the Palestinians met face to face with Israeli representatives. It took some of these factions, such as the PFLP led by George Habash, two years to acknowledge the need to reverse the equation it had applied until then and to recognize the importance of shifting its centrifugal political and leadership weight to the occupied territory, particularly as the burden of the opposition there would increase with the [PLO] Tunis leadership moving to the occupied territory.

Riyad al-Maliki, considered to be the PFLP's official spokesman in the occupied territory, says: "If Syria signed an agreement with Israel within a short period of time, that would surprise us, but if that did occur and the process of transferring the leadership had reached an advanced stage, there would be no problems."

The talk about moving the leadership to the occupied territory does not include Front officials moving from Damascus or other Arab capitals to Gaza, Jericho, or other parts of the West Bank. It rather means that the size of the responsibility falling on the shoulders of those in the occupied territory and their duties would increase in the next phase, in which a Palestinian national autonomy authority would emerge, and these responsibilities and duties would outweigh the tasks of the leadership abroad.

The PFLP in the occupied territory is still maintaining secrecy regarding the names and ranks of its leaders in the occupied territory, particularly those still unknown to the occupation authorities, unlike Fatah which has revealed all its cards since the signing of the Declaration of Principles with Israel.

A PFLP official says: "We will not become a public party, nor will we reveal our organizational structure, not even after the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. That is, first, because we have to take into consideration the possibility that the agreement might fail and, second, because we still do not know what position the future authority would take regarding the opposition and to what extent its coordination with the occupation authorities would have a bearing on the repressive measures used."

Al-Maliki, who was the PFLP's spokesman during the occupied territory's intifadah, which began in 1987, and got automatic immunity on the basis of his meetings with diplomats representing Western states (not Americans), says that the mechanism of the opposition's work will change as the Palestinians enter the new phase of implementation. He points out that "we now see nothing except negotiations under occupation. That is why we have to address public opinion and expose the danger of the agreement signed with Israel, but we cannot prevent anyone from negotiating or arriving at a formula of some kind." He adds: "When the implementation begins there

will emerge a reality that we would have to confront and we will not be content with just writing articles in the press or addressing the masses but will use the direct method."

'Arafat Briefs Russian Envoy on Davos Talks

LD0302184594 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Brother Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, last night received the Russian ambassador in Tunis who conveyed to him a message from the Russian leadership.

Brother President Abu-Ammar asked the ambassador to convey a message to the Russian leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian talks in Davos and Israel's attempts to delay implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

The meeting was also an opportunity to review the various stages of the peace process and the worsening situation in the occupied territories as a consequence of the occupation and Israel's violation of Palestinians' human rights.

Sha'th: Agreement 'Closer Than Some Might Think'

TA0302165294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Feb 94 pp 1, 18

[By Salih Abu-Hamad]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, chief Palestinian negotiator at the Taba talks, described yesterday the meetings in Davos between Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres as being on the level of responsibility. He said those meetings produced positive results which three months of talks with Israeli negotiators could not produce. Sha'th expressed the belief that what was achieved in Davos was the most that the Palestinians could achieve. He said: Today we are very close, closer than some might think, to reaching an agreement ensuring the beginning of implementation of the declaration of principles.

Sha'th, however, refused to say when he expects a final agreement to be signed, adding: Our negotiating experience with the Israelis makes it difficult for us to set any timeframe.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, Sha'th said: We should always remember that we are in a transitional stage in which the Israelis will maintain their presence in two points—the settlements and the borders. It was agreed in the Declaration of Principles to call those points "foreign security and the settlements' security." We succeeded in confining this presence to the narrowest possible geographic area with the provision that there will be a Palestinian presence opposite the Israeli presence. Sha'th stressed that the Davos accord preserved Palestinian personal and national dignity.

On whether the prisoners' issue was raised at the 'Arafat-Peres talks, he said: We are talking about an overall agreement that includes a reasonable timetable for releasing all Palestinian prisoners, without exception.

Government To Be Formed After Signing of Accord

TA0302200794 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 3 Feb 94 p 4

[By 'Ala' al-Mashahrawi]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Zakariya al-Agha has disclosed that immediately upon the signing of an agreement with Israel, the Palestinian leadership will announce the members of the Palestinian transitional government—the interim national authority.

Dr. Zakariya al-Agha stressed that the Palestinians are able to manage the Gaza Strip's affairs less than 48 hours after the Israeli forces withdraw from there.

Al-Agha pointed out that most Palestinian civil agencies, especially the police, education, and health are now in place and that specialized Palestinian cadres from within and abroad will run these agencies upon the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

Al-Agha condemned remarks attributed to an Israeli military commander and published in an Israeli newspaper to the effect that the Israeli forces will not be able to withdraw before 13 April. Al-Agha said: Despite the fact that I am not a military man, I believe that the Israeli forces can withdraw within one month. They have now about two-and-a half-months until that date and they can implement withdrawal during this period without any obstacles.

Al-Agha expressed his displeasure over a possible delay in the withdrawal date, because exceeding the date set for this purpose will represent a grave and unsound indication by the Israelis, who now have adequate time for withdrawing.

Al-Agha denied rumors on the existence of differences within Fatah in the Gaza Strip. He said that Fatah is gaining strength daily and is becoming more cohesive and resolute and that its members are aware of their current historic responsibility.

Al-Agha expressed his complete pleasure at the democratic dialogue conducted by the engineers from Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] which resulted in forming a joint board of management, because this epitomizes the Palestinian people's spirit of cooperation, democracy, and great responsibility.

He added: This is a living example that it is possible to form a Palestinian government from among the Palestinian forces participating in the arena. He emphasized that the Palestinian leadership calls on every Palestinian to join the coming authority.

Al-Agha underscored the need to hold elections at their scheduled date so that the people will choose their representatives in a democratic and fair manner in the first Palestinian national authority in the Palestinian people's history.

Abu-Sharif: Antioccupation Resistance To Continue

JN0302183594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by correspondent Huda al-Husayni in London; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Sharif] There is no doubt that the delay in the implementation of the first-step agreement will make the Palestinians and the Arabs doubt the seriousness of the Israeli Government's stand. Furthermore, the continuation of occupation and shooting at Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank will draw more resistance. This will renew the cycle of violence and endanger the whole agreement.

[Al-Husayni] Some people say the continuation of violence in the occupied territory will prompt a negative Israeli reaction and make it refuse to implement this agreement.

[Abu-Sharif] The fact is that the cycle of violence was generated by the presence of occupation and the shooting at Palestinians by Israeli soldiers, not the opposite. Palestinian reaction is a legitimate and human resistance.

[Al-Husayni] Hamas, however, has been accused of killing Israelis.

[Abu-Sharif] The reaction of the Palestinians—students, women, men, and old men—is a reaction to Israeli measures, not the opposite. This is the reaction of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Husayni] Israeli officials have been stating that they are concerned about Israel's security. Why was the agreement concluded in the first place if it would endanger Israel's security?

[Abu-Sharif] We understand Israelis' fears regarding their security. However, they should understand that we also have our own fears regarding the security issue. It is our people who are in need of protection. We can conclude by saying that our people will continue the resistance as long as the occupation continues.

[Al-Husayni] My last question is the following: Did Yasir 'Arafat really dispatch some of his personal guards for training in the United States?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not know whether they were dispatched to the United States specifically, however, I know that quite a good number of the presidential guards are receiving training in more than one Western country.

Assassination Plot Against 'Arafat in Amman Denied

PM0302173094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Feb 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Official Denies Attempt To Assassinate 'Arafat by Shooting Down His Aircraft With Missile"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—An authoritative source at the Palestinian embassy in Amman yesterday denied reports of the uncovering of a plot to assassinate Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat during his visit to Amman last month.

The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that these reports are absolutely baseless and unfounded. The source added that he had no information about reports that Jordanian security forces had arrested a Palestinian group armed with shoulder-mounted rockets prepared for launching in the direction of 'Arafat's aircraft as it landed in Amman civilian airport.

For their part, Jordanian security sources have declined to comment on the report, which was published by a local newspaper.

Algeria

AIG Committee Official Explains Group's Goals, Plans

JN0302162694 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 24-30 Jan 94 pp 24-27

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar on "text" of interview with unidentified head of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah al-Musallahah Political and Sharia Committee by unidentified AL-WASAT reporter—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah al-Musallahah [AIG] in Algeria has disclosed its political, military, and religious objectives, in the first press statements since it launched its armed operations in November, 1991, in which it claimed responsibility for most of the operations in Algeria, including assassinations and advising foreigners to leave the country.

The head of the political and sharia committee spoke to AL-WASAT, having been authorized by "the amir of the jama'ah" [the prince of the group] Sayfallah Ja'far about the ideology, plans, and relations of the group. He explained that it has supporters in 39 out of Algeria's 48 governorates, and that the jama'ah is held to be "an extension of the jihad of Shaykh Mustafa Buway'ali". He emphasized that the jihad will be sustained, since "we do not recognize the secular separation of the military and political action". He considered the presence of foreigners in his country to be "part of a colonialist infidel scheme", who, he said, represent the throbbing heart of every occupation and are spies for the infidel in the land of Islam". He criticized the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] . He commended the Afghan jihad, indicating that "we are in their debt", noting that many of the Algerians who fought in Afghan...:an had joined the AIG.

It is to be recalled that the AIG recently decided to unite the armed groups in Algeria, leaving out the FIS, whose present leaders "sold out on the cause". A few days ago, it distributed a statement in Peshawar, in which it pointed out that the "unity meeting" among the military factions decided to merge these groups under the designation of "the Armed Islamic Group". These are Abu-'Adlan 'Abd-al-Haqq al-'Ayayidah, Dr. Abu-Ahmad and his group, and Abu- 'Abd-al-Rahman Sayyid Tarrani and his delegation representing Shaykh al-Malyani. Sayfallah Ja'far was assigned the leadership. The conferees formed a leading council comprising military, shura, political, and media bodies and decided on the following:

1. The formulation of a comprehensive, national strategy in the area of military operations.

2. The formulation of an accurate informational plan to surmount the barrier of an internal and external news blackout.

3. The organization of the masses to the greatest possible effectiveness.

4. Streamlining the arms procurement networks and instituting new networks.

5. Instituting fund raising and spending networks.

6. Conducting a survey of the number of martyrs, mujahidin, prisoners, with a view to looking after their families and their needs.

7. Breaking the siege of the central governorates by widening the base of operations so as to encompass the entire country.

8. Keeping track of and killing traitors of the movement [al-khawanah al-harakiyin], and sellers (hypocrites and spies).

9. Keeping the AIG under control, using shura laws, and spreading the shari'ah in the ranks of the mujahidin.

It is known that a number of the AIG members, who left, or those who are still fighting, have participated in the Afghan jihad. The AIG issues a weekly publication in Peshawar called "AL-ANSAR" although it does not say that it speaks for the AIG. It is printed abroad and distributed in Peshawar to Arabs who fought in Afghanistan.

The following is the text of the interview with AL-WASAT, which is the first press interview with one of the AIG leaders, who received the AL-WASAT questions in Peshawar and sent them abroad to receive answers to them. All this has taken place in secrecy for security reasons:

[AL-WASAT] When the AIG was established?

[Unidentified AIG Leader] In previous interviews, we said that the AIG is not a newborn, but it has deep roots in the world of Islamic jihad. In other words, the AIG is an extension to the jihad of Shaykh Mustafa Buway'ali, may God have mercy on his soul. Above all, the AIG is an extension to the first major battle which took place between the believers and the infidels; namely, the Badr Battle, which took place between the prophet, may God peace and blessing be upon him, and the infidels of Quraysh.

From an organizational, practical, and combat viewpoint, it began in 1989, following the release of Shaykh Mustafa's aides from prison, particularly Shaykh al-Malyani, may God have mercy on his soul. Contacts then began within the ranks of those who believe that jihad is a must when Islam is not implemented, when the Muslims' land is usurped, when Muslim women are taken captives, or when Muslim men are captured. As we expected, many youths have joined Shaykh al-Malyani. Other cells from villages and quarters, which were also preparing themselves for armed jihad, have also joined Shaykh al-Malyani. In addition to this, the youths who fought in Afghanistan have also joined the shaykh. This

is how the AIG was established. It later issued a statement called "the unity statement" in which they explained some of the main points of the the program of action.

Direct military action began on 18 November 1991, approximately two years after it was established and after recruiting the cadres on which jihad depends pursuant to God's order: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies of God and your enemies. [koranic verse]

Decisionmaking is based on shari'ah and the counselors' opinions. This means that the AIG is based on a set of rules that are already defined in books of jurisprudence and Islamic politics of the pious predecessors, ulema, and reliable imams, may God have mercy on their souls.

Concerning its military weight, it is responsible for most of the operations that are carried out in the country, foremost of which are assassinations and the deportation of the foreigners, crusaders, and Jews. It exists in approximately 39 governorates out of the country's 48 governorates.

[AL-WASAT] Was the AIG affected by the Afghan jihad?

[AIG Leader] The blessed Afghan jihad has affected many Muslims in the whole world. It has many advantages which can only be denied by the unjust ones.

[AL-WASAT] Do you believe in change brought about by political action, or, to put it concisely, by violence?

[AIG Leader] Your question prompts us to raise another important question. What do you mean by "political action"? If, by political action, you mean joining suspect parliaments and alliances, holding dialogue with tyrants, accepting the judgment of infidelity rather than Islam, and having recourse to international laws, such as the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, and other Judeo-Christian organizations, then it is the duty of every Muslim to disown and repudiate such organizations. The mere thought of having recourse to these organizations is against God's orders, let alone joining them.

If, however, you mean by political action following Islamic policy as agreed upon by the ulema of this nation, which includes jihad and the promotion of virtue and suppression of vice, then this is at the heart of our religion, indeed the peak of it. Taking such a course of action is a collective duty, which later becomes an individual duty. As for what you term violence, this is a misrepresentation of God's words and is meant to deceive the people. How can we consider "jihad for the cause of God" as violence? Can any Muslim allow himself to say this about God's words, unless he is a believer in the laws of the East and the West, which serve their own interests? We do not recognize the secular separation between military and political action.

[AL-WASAT] Why have you attacked foreigners, and what is the message you want to deliver?

[AIG Leader] We attacked foreigners (Jews, Christians, and polytheists) because they are part of an infidel, colonialist, scheme. They represent a living artery and throbbing heart of every occupation, be it external or domestic, explicit or implicit. Also, those foreigners are spies for the infidels in the Islamic world. In addition, those foreigners represent a mainstay of the economy. If they live in peace, then this means that the country is leading a normal life. However, killing and fighting them is practical evidence of the weakness of the infidel regime and the return of Islam as prophesied by the prophet, may God's peace be upon him. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] There are reports about Iranian aid and facilities from other neighboring states. How true is this? Do you receive foreign support and how do you finance your military operations?

[AIG Leader] Iran is a Shiite state, and so we cannot receive aid from it. God Almighty has saved us the trouble. But to God belong the treasures of the heavens and the earth, but the hypocrites understand not. [Koranic verse]

[AL-WASAT] What are the goals that you aspire to achieve by armed action?

[AIG Leader] It is a jihad for the cause of God, and not armed action. Our only objective is to see God's law prevail, make people worship God, end injustice and debauchery, and achieve justice as the Koran orders us to do. By doing this, we seek only to win God's satisfaction, and nothing else.

[AL-WASAT] What is the nature of your relationship with the Salvation Front, and can you ignore it? Suppose a change takes place, are you qualified to fill the vacuum in terms of the cadres, the army, police, security, etc?

[AIG Leader] What front do you mean? There are many fronts, many branches, and many spokesmen. Be more specific so that we can give you an answer. [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] Several names in the Algerian arena adopt violence. What are the major groups in terms of strength and presence in the arena of military action?

[AIG Leader] There is a great clamor regarding this. Those who read local and international press believe that the number of the armed group exceeds 600 or 1,000 sometimes. This is incredible; it is a legendary figure. The objective and purpose of this are well known. The media wants to show the world that there is conflict in order to frustrate the Muslims and create confusion in their ranks. God willing, events will prove that certain people only are burdening themselves with the blessed jihad.

[AL-WASAT] The FIS has formed an army. Are you ready to join it or cooperate with it?

[AIG Leader] We would like to ask: Which front are you talking about and which army do you mean. Many statements have been made regarding this army now that capitulatory peaceful solutions have become imminent. The AIG is carrying the banner of "There Is No God but Allah" in the battlefield. We have not heard about this army nor sensed its reality. He who has anything else to say should prove it inside, in the land of fire and dust, not in the Intercontinental, Holiday Inn, or Hilton Hotels.

[AL-WASAT] If the FIS reaches a compromise with the Algerian regime, what will be your response?

[AIG Leader] The Mujahidin Shura Council and the Islamic Courts will decide what should be done if such a thing takes place.

[AL-WASAT] Do your attacks on Rabeh Kebir and Abdallah Anas represent your opposition to them personally or to the FIS?

[AIG Leader] We oppose policies, not persons; we oppose actions, not faces. In the end, we oppose all those who leave the battlefield and escape the tremor. Previous experiments alone are not criteria to judge people. The pretext that they participated in the fighting in the past but they have abandoned it now is not accepted. What counts is the end, not the beginning. You can judge all those who are in your mind in accordance with this rule.

[AL-WASAT] What is the next strategy of the military action? Do you believe that the previous operations or strategy will be followed?

[AIG Leader] We cannot now define a specific strategy. Continuing or changing the strategy depends on many tactical, geographical, social, and military factors. Therefore, we cannot deal with this now. However, some explorations here and there would reveal the features of the coming stage, God willing.

[AL-WASAT] What kind of relationship is there between you and the military action groups in Egypt and other Arab states?

[AIG Leader] It is a relationship that the holy Koran has ordered us to develop. "But if they seek your aid in religion, it is your duty to help them" [Koranic verse]. In the same vein, the messenger of God, God's peace and blessings be upon him, says: "All Muslims are brothers. They must not fail, disgrace, or wrong each other." [passage omitted]

[AL-WASAT] When you select the targets of your military operations, do you mean to convey a political message or signal beyond the operation itself, or is the objective is just to kill without intending to convey any signals?

[AIG Leader] Targets for military operations are selected in implementation of God's words: "And slay them wherever you catch them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out; for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter." [Koranic verse]

[AL-WASAT] A change in any state must cover many and various fields, especially in view of the fact that social, political, and economic relations are interlinked. Through your action, we notice that you focus on the military aspect only.

[AIG Leader] Establishing the pillars of the Muslim caliphate requires greater efforts by us. We are still at the beginning. We have not arrived at the stage that will enable us to think of such issues. Now we should stand firmly on the ground. Afterward, God will help us go ahead. "And those who strive in our cause, we will certainly guide them to our paths; for verily God is with those who do right." [Koranic verse]

[AL-WASAT] Any armed movement or revolution needs traditional leaders or symbols. Do you have such symbols? Are you capable of winning such symbols? Who among the Algerian personalities would you nominate for leading your action?

[AIG Leader] The existence of symbols is not a prerequisite for waging jihad. It is favorable and nice to have symbols. But if we suppose—and this is the actual situation in Algeria—that there is no specific symbol, will jihad cease to exist as a duty? This jihad began without outstanding symbols. It began with the youth. From the womb of the ordeal, symbols will be born, God willing.

As for the nomination of leading personalities, certain conditions must be observed. In addition to some leadership traits that must be exist in the symbol, he must have participated in jihad and military operations and must have killed a considerable number of the enemies of God.

NCD Chairman Comments on Zeroual Appointment

LD0302141394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] In a statement to the national daily EL WATAN to be published on 5 February, Youcef Khatib, the chairman of the National Dialogue Commission [NDC], revealed that the method of appointing the head of state was the subject of a recommendation made in a constitutional council memorandum to the Higher State Council and the NDC.

The NDC chairman said that the national consensus conference has achieved its main objective of establishing the tradition of dialogue among Algerians. Khatib added that history will record the fundamental role played by the civil society, describing it as the third force.

In reply to a question on the obscurity that surrounded the identity and credibility of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front's figures, whom the NDC had contacted, Khatib sufficed by saying it was a representation, without offering further explanation.

Security Forces Widen Ban on Possession of Arms

NC0302223394 Paris AFP in English 2200 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Algiers, Feb 3 (AFP)—Algeria's security forces widened a ban on possessing rifles to the whole country Thursday after the fifth political assassination in six days.

The widening of the ban from 10 departments in central Algeria to the whole country follows the killing Wednesday of two political activists.

Yahia Bouguettaya, the former mayor of Mohammadia, south-east Algeria, and Mohamed Touali, an activist in Algeria's Ettahadi (Challenge) political party, were assassinated Wednesday.

Touali, 32, was kidnapped overnight Tuesday in Constantine, east Algeria, and his body later discovered, the party said.

Their deaths bring the number of political assassinations to six since former communist party official Ferhat Chibout was killed on January 27.

The latest deaths follow the killing Tuesday in the Casbah district of Algiers of French journalist Olivier Quemeneur and the wounding by gunmen of the cameraman's Australian colleague, Scott Allan White.

Armed Islamic groups have waged a war on the regime, targeting foreigners politicians, and intellectuals as part of their campaign, since the cancellation in January 1992 of a general election which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The FIS, now outlawed, has blamed alleged government death squads for carrying out some of the killings.

Commentary Decries Terrorism, Killings, Violence

LD0302233094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Condemnation of assassination and violence in all its forms, be it against Algerians or foreigners, the list will not end as long as more names continue to fall. Here is more with Nassira Ait Saleh:

[Ait Saleh] The list of victims is growing longer. The bloodletting of the best Algerians continue; even foreigners have not been spared.

The wantonness of terrorism cannot be explained, save by the logic of blind madness, which aims at destabilizing the country and desecrating the right to live.

Terrorism does not exclude anyone; intellectuals, journalists, civilians, policemen, gendarmes, and soldiers have all been a target for the bullets of terrorism, merely because they are one of Algeria's symbols.

Two days ago, two foreign journalists were also the victims of terrorism. One was killed instantly and the other was seriously wounded. This took place at the Casbah of Algiers—at what should be a symbolic and welcoming quarter, an international historical monument.

This hemorrhage must stop. Algeria will remain steadfast, thanks to its sons, who are producing, resisting, and also dying.

Egypt

Mubarak on Fundamentalism, Middle East Peace

NC0302135894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has stressed that economic reforms in the coming stage should take into account social justice in order to achieve the objective of protecting the low-income groups.

President Mubarak said that Egyptians are committed to the continuation of the economic reform program, even though they have suffered from some of its side effects, because they realize that today's sacrifices will ensure economic prosperity in the future.

In a comprehensive interview with the French magazine POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE [INTERNATIONAL POLICY], President Mubarak said fundamentalism is a phenomenon that exists in all societies and it is wrong to view it as concerning only Islam. He added that the real objective of the terrorist groups is to seize power and they are using Islam as a cover.

The president said: We are capable of resolving the terrorism problem and of putting it in its true perspective.

He also stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles is irrevocable because it reflects the feelings of the great majority of Palestinians and Israelis even though the agreement is not ideal. He added that the UN resolutions are the reference point and framework for the peace process and that the current negotiations are hard and need both patience and time. He stressed that history does not repeat itself.

On the current Arab developments, President Mubarak said: No one is happy with the Iraqi people's tribulations. We are looking forward to the day when it will be over.

Embassies Not Warning Against Visits After Threats

NC0302153194 Paris AFP in English 1455 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, Feb 3 (AFP)—Three of the seven Islamic militants killed in a police raid in Cairo were involved in the murder of a British tourist in October 1992, police said Thursday.

Police said the three shot dead on Wednesday—Yasir Zaki, 'Abd-al-Nabi Tayih and Tariq al-Qurayshi—took part in the murder of 28-year-old Sharon Hill in the town of Dayrut, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Cairo.

Two other British tourists were wounded in the attack. Hill was the first foreigner to be killed in a campaign of violence launched by fundamentalist militants in March 1992.

Western embassies in Cairo said Thursday they were taking seriously the threats against foreigners issued by the outlawed Islamic militant group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah following the police raid.

However, the embassies stressed they were not warning their nationals against visiting Egypt.

On Wednesday, the militant group warned foreign investors and tourists to leave the country, saying it would retaliate against the "massacre" of seven of its members by police, and its next attacks would be "extremely tough."

The interior ministry said police shot dead the seven militants when they came under fire in a raid on an apartment in a poor district of Cairo.

They discovered a large quantity of arms, explosives and remote control devices in the apartment. None of the policemen was hurt.

Seven foreigners were among the 293 people killed since the militants launched their campaign aimed at toppling the secular government of President Husni Mubarak.

Two were killed in an attack on a coffee shop in Cairo in February 1993. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack, which remained unresolved.

Four other foreigners were killed when a gunman opened fire last October in the Semiramis Hotel in Cairo. Police said the gunman, arrested on the spot, was mentally ill.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi warned Wednesday that the security forces would continue the crackdown against Islamic militants "until the last terrorist is eliminated."

Embassies on Security for Nationals

NC0302183694 Paris AFP in English 1717 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Report by Lamia Radi]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Feb 3 (AFP)—Western embassies urged their citizens to be on the alert on Thursday after Islamic militants warned foreign tourists and investors to stay out of Egypt.

Security forces said meanwhile that three of the seven militants killed in a police raid here on Wednesday—sparking the threat against foreigners—had taken part in the murder of a British tourist in October 1992.

Embassies said the threat issued by the underground al-Jama'a al-Islamiyah was being taken seriously. But they did not warn their nationals against visiting Egypt, where the economy relies on tourism.

British embassy spokesman Martin Day said the mission was in contact with the Egyptian authorities, although he noted it was not the first time that foreigners were being threatened.

"Obviously we're taking this call seriously," he said.

The US mission said it issued a statement to notify Americans living in Cairo of the threat. It was a strictly precautionary move in response to concern from the American community, the embassy said.

A French spokesman said there was no cause for alarm, while the foreign ministry in Paris said its citizens should stay on the alert in Egypt. [passage omitted covered in previously filed material]

On Thursday, there was no immediate sign of panic cancellations but hotels said that bookings were already low, despite it being the high season for tourism to Egypt.

"At the moment, 90 percent of our clients are Arabs from the Gulf. They don't feel concerned by the threats of the Moslem fundamentalists," said a hotel manager, asking not to be named.

In January, Tourism Minister Mamduh al-Biltaji said revenue from tourism slumped by 42 percent last year, compared to 1992.

In financial circles, there was also no immediate response to the latest threat. "It's not going to lead to the liquidation of foreign holdings in Egypt, that's for sure," said an official in an Egyptian-Western bank.

Al-Alfi Pledges Confrontation To End Terrorism

NC0302202794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that the recent confrontation with terrorists in the al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' area was the result of careful planning and reflected the high standard of physical and mental training of the members of the police force. It also reflects the high standard they achieved in intensive training to deal with such crimes in Egyptian society.

In statements to newsmen today, the interior minister said the security services have much information about the financing and recruitment efforts of the terrorists and some misled individuals who harm and betray their religion and homeland in return for a small sum of money.

Answering a question about a REUTER report that some terrorists issued a statement threatening to carry out terrorist operations, al-Alfi said the Interior Ministry rejects what could be called a statement by the terrorist groups, because terrorism has no voice, opinion, or aim in Egypt. The ministry does not permit criminals to address the Egyptian public as if they impose the rule of crime on the millions of honorable people in Egypt.

The interior minister added: The security services now have the initiative and the ability to strike at the terrorists' criminal rackets. They will not hesitate to confront and deter those who think they can impose their distorted views by force.

The minister explained that the police now fully believe that it is their responsibility to purge the country of the last terrorist, irrespective of the sacrifice.

Al-Alfi said that any criminal who thinks for one moment that he can threaten any Egyptian must realize that the security services can reach him and punish him for his crimes. It has become clear to the public at home and abroad that ugly terrorism represents a shallow ideology for people who have deviated from the teachings of their religion and their loyalty to their country.

Al-Alfi added that the Interior Ministry announces that it will take any terrorist who wants to repent before the honest Egyptian courts and that the door will remain open to all those who wish to repent and return to the right path to serve the interests of their country and people. The ministry can protect and assist him provided his repentance is sincere.

Al-Alfi said that the Interior Ministry emphasizes that the blood of the police and civilian martyrs will not be wasted and that any criminal will be punished quickly for any crime he has committed.

He added that the ministry also thinks that popular support for the police has become a strong front for achieving security and stability and for promoting development in Egypt.

The interior minister affirmed that the security service's success in containing terrorism is not the only success they seek but a first step to be followed by others, supported by all the national forces to impose complete security control.

He explained that the ministry's standing instructions to the police are to confront [words indistinct] shooting with force. Al-Alfi said that the Interior Ministry will not be lenient with any policeman who fails to use his personal weapon when necessary, because the confrontation has become total on the way to ending terrorism throughout Egypt.

Cairo Asks Nile Nations Not To Cooperate With Israel

NC0302122394 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 31 Jan 94 p 13

[Report by Hamdi al-Husayni]

[Text] Egypt has asked all the countries situated on the Nile River to discontinue cooperation with Israel in agricultural projects and the building of dams.

Egypt warned Kenya and Ethiopia against using Israeli experts in implementing irrigation projects. Egypt had obtained information that the two countries recently employed a number of Israeli experts to assist them in building dams on the Nile and setting up agricultural projects.

Musa: New Sudanese Harbor Not in Hala'ib Area

NC0302162594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the harbor that Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir opened earlier this week lies south of the 22nd parallel and not in the Hala'ib area.

The foreign minister said that he is taking this opportunity to stress that the opening of a new harbor in fraternal Sudan is an opportunity for congratulating the brothers in that country.

He added that the meeting of the Egyptian and Sudanese foreign ministers has been delayed because of their prior commitments.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Defending Arabs, Lockerbie

LD0302235794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Misratah on 3 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers, this is Misratah, the town whose history is known to all Libyans and to all enemies, and whose heroic battles during the war of Jihad and liberation are well known to everyone. [passage omitted]

We say to the U.S., Britain, France, the hirelings, and Zionists, that Misratah will reject treason and arrogance. The enemy's calculations, which have led it to issue three unjust resolutions—concocted through the Security Council—against the Libyan people must be foiled here in Misratah. We should announce from here, from this town in which we challenged the fleets of Italy and its

unjust aggression at a time when there was no comparison between the defenses of the inhabitants of Misratah and the Italian brute force. Today, however, there is some comparison between our force and its readiness and of that of the enemy's, who might like to repeat the aggression once more.

Brothers, we would like to announce from Misratah that the Libyan people has come to the conclusion that the battle is not against the Jamahiriyah; it was not caused by the Pan Am incident and it is not a battle between just two sides. The Libyan people has come to the conclusion that a fresh colonialist campaign and a new imperialist scheme is under way against the Arab nation. However, it has been ordained that Libya should raise aloft the banner of this battle. And it has been ordained that the Libyan people should raise aloft the banner of Saladin, Jamal-'Abd-al-Nasir, al-Suwahli, and Umar al-Mukhtar, as well as other banners which symbolize our glorious history; we should raise them all aloft.

The Libyan people is aware that Washington, Paris, Berlin, Bonn, London, and Tel Aviv are all behind the battle which is taking place now in the streets of Cairo. The battle which is taking place in the streets of Cairo is a long and a serious battle; it is a battle which has nothing to do with Islamic extremism and has nothing to do whatsoever with Islam. It is a scheme to divide Egypt into a mini-state for Copts and another one for Muslims, and to Balkanize the Arab homeland.

The Egyptian people must therefore be aware that Tel Aviv, Washington, Paris, and London—and Bonn too—are all behind the battle which is taking place in the streets of Cairo at this moment. It is the beginning of a serious battle, a very serious battle indeed, which aims at fragmenting Egypt and dividing it into mini-states, because Egypt is the mother of pan-Arabism. Cairo is the capital of the Arab nation, and the Egyptian people has made innumerable sacrifices against the Crusaders, colonialists, and Zionists.

The Libyan people would like to warn its fraternal Egyptian people against the seriousness of the plot which is being hatched by Western power and Tel Aviv. The faked peace process, which is being bragged about to us these days, is no more that a smokescreen for the Zionist conspiracy against Cairo and the U.S. conspiracy against Cairo. Hence, the Libyan people in Misratah would like to warn its brothers, with whom it is linked by same fate, its Egyptian brothers and Cairo, the capital of the Arab nation, that a serious conspiracy is being hatched against Cairo, first and foremost before Tripoli and Misratah.

The Egyptian people ought to vigilant. We would like to warn our brothers in the fraternal Egyptian leadership, out of our concern for them and for our common fate, to warn them from Misratah, the town of Jihad and resistance and the town of heroic sacrifices, that the peace process is a lie and a smokescreen for the dangerous conspiracy against Cairo itself.

Therefore, those meetings, delegations, consultations, and compromises are merely a dangerous conspiracy which hides the serious, the secret, wanton, and dangerous work which is being carried out day in, day out, against Egypt itself, against Palestine, and against the Arab nation. We are going to take Tel Aviv's wraps off here in Misratah: When it sends delegations to Cairo, Taba, Oslo, Geneva, and to the United Nations, it is in order to hide the serious conspiracy against Egypt, a conspiracy which is being hatched in secret in order to Balkanize Egypt and to divide Egypt in a bid to destroy the biggest Arab country, and to undermine Arab stamina for a confrontation.

They look at peace between Egypt and the Zionist enemy from their viewpoint as being a temporary truce, and when preparations are completed there will be a clash, because the Jews will not be satisfied with a small state surrounded by Arabs and confined between Arabs and the sea, and get a tiny state. The Jews are planning to establish an empire, not between the Euphrates and the Nile, but from the Atlantic to the Gulf, which would replace the Arab nation.

At the same time, O brothers, I thank you for giving us this opportunity to deliver this serious speech which concerns the fate of the Arab nation. At the same time, O brothers, while maneuvering and deceptive operations are openly taking place, such as negotiations on Gaza and Jericho, these moves hide the real criminal plan directed against Egypt. At the same time, O brothers, they send delegations and talk with Algeria, which is the second biggest Arab state and is the country with 1.5 million martyrs. They court Algeria with lies and talk about economic aid—the IMF, the World Bank—and the possibility of granting loans to Algeria. At the same time, O brothers, they are igniting covert fires and working to cause an internal explosion within Algeria. Paris is behind the battle which has started in Algeria, and France fans it directly with the black French hand. It is not an Islamic battle at all, it is a battle, which according to their plans, will not end until Algeria is fragmented piece by piece, and tiny states are set up in Algeria once again. Then these states will be ethnic and family states which are isolated from each other, and which ask Europe for help and which are at Europe's mercy.

From Misratah, the city of historical resistance, the city of struggle, bravery, and sacrifices, we address the call to the brave Algerian people and our friends in the new Algerian leadership, to warn them against this conspiracy being hatched by Paris, the Western states, and Zionism, in order to bring about the fragmentation of and balkanization of Algeria, and to realize that the battle is not with the Islamists or with Islam. Algeria is an Islamic state, Egypt is also an Islamic Sunni state. There is no defection from Islam or heresy in Egypt. Egypt is a country of Islam and is a country of the Holy al-Azhar, but the things which are taking place in the streets of Egypt and Algeria are an U.S.-French-British-German-Jewish conspiracy.

The Libyan people are those who can today raise their voice high in order to warn the Arab nation against this sudden danger, O brothers, against the Arab nation. The reason for this is because the circumstances of the Arab peoples do not allow them to express what is in their hearts with regard to America, Britain, France, and Zionism. The Arab peoples are prisoners, and the Arab petty states are tantamount to mass prisons for the peoples of the Arab nation.

The Libyan people have broken the chains and have liberated themselves with the revolution, the great al-Fatih revolution, and their voice has become loud. The Libyan people are their own masters and are the people of the People's Congresses and People's Committees, the people of revolutionary committees and free vocational trade unions, the people who possess authority, wealth, and weapons.

O brothers, we have the right to warn our nation from Misratah. We have chosen Misratah because Egypt knows Misratah, Algeria knows Misratah, and the Arab nation and the enemy know Misratah. The enemy knows the bitter lessons it tasted in Misratah. The enemy recalls the distress it faced from Misratah's resistance. [passage omitted]

The battle is one from the Ocean to the Gulf, regardless of attempts to deceive us. We understand history. We make history. We will not be deceived, O brothers. The battle is one from the ocean to the Gulf and the enemy is one from Tel Aviv to Washington. One enemy against one nation.

We should not be deceived, O brothers, that there is an Algerian issue, a Palestinian issue, a Syrian issue, an Iraqi issue, and a Libyan issue. This is a lie. This is deception. This cannot fool us while we are talking from Misratah. [passage omitted] However, the U.S. of yesterday is not the U.S. of today. The U.S. today supports with all its might the artificial Jewish state and arms it with the nuclear weapon and with the bacteriological and chemical weapons, which are targeted toward the oblivious Arabs. O simple-minded Arabs, Israel's weapons are targeted on you alone.

Who has a quarell with the Jewish state? You Arabs and Muslims. And who supplied this mini-state with the mass destruction weapons? It is the West who is deceiving you at present and who laugh and ridicule you, and tells you it is your friend. What sort of friendship is it between the Arab nation and its real traditional enemies? The animosity between Islam and the Jews and the Christians will continue until the day of judgment. This is the will of God and all other attempts are naive and ignorant.

We are not seeking friendship with the imperialist states. However, what we want is that they remain within their borders and we remain within ours. That is all. We have no ambitions with regard to their assistance. We are not in need of assistance. We are not in need of assistance either from the U.S., from Britain, from France, or from the European Economic Community [EEC]. To hell with the EEC. We can do without the EEC and without any relations with the EEC. Those who pin their hopes on the EEC and on European assistance are plowing in the sea. They are naive. They are ignorant. They are insignificant, and history will cast them to its wastebin.

The Libyan people, O brothers, has the honor and the pride and glory that it is paying the price for independence. We are a free and independent people. We have glory and pride in that. We challenge any of the peoples around us to be free. All the peoples around us are shackled. If they were not shackled internally they would be shackled by foreign aid and burdened by foreign debts, and are under foreign control and under foreign aid. What sort of independence is it that depends on foreign aid? What independence is it that depends on foreign assistance? What sort of independence is it for Kuwait if it is unable to remain independent without the protection of foreign forces? Joining Iraq would be a million times better for it than to remain artificially independent and dependent on the presence of foreign forces. What would happen if the foreign forces withdrew? Kuwait's independence would disappear along with the foreign forces.

If Saudi Arabia's independence is dependent on the U.S. forces, what meaning does this independence have? For Saudi Arabia to join Egypt or Iraq or Yemen would be better than to have an independence that depends on the presence of foreign forces.

The Libyan people, O brothers, is paying the price for genuine independence. This the price of independence. It is to give up the foreigner, be hostile to those hostile to you, and to reject bargaining. Bargaining with dignity, bargaining with your brother. We, O brothers, do not bargain on Iraq and on the sufferings of the people of Iraq and the tragedies of the children of Iraq. Those who do that are cowards. They are the insignificant and the lowly who will be cursed by the nation and cursed by the children of Iraq.

We, O brothers, do not sacrifice the fate of the nation or the future of the nation, or the future of the Palestinian people, or the Palestinian issue for the sake of our national issue. We know that our national issue is part of the pan-Arab issue, and that any loss in the Palestinian issue is a loss to the Libyan national issue.

Therefore, we profoundly regret the sale of dear Palestine. Palestine has been sold and holy Jerusalem has been abandoned. The bargaining on the Palestinian people has been done. O brothers, they are selling the Palestinians at auction. They are trading Jerusalem; let the curse befall those rulers who are trading holy Jerusalem. They are trading the al-Aqsa Mosque, O brothers. They are trading Palestine. Selling the Palestinian people, selling, O brothers, the future of the Arab nation, selling the future of your children and grandchildren. This is the price of independence, O brothers, which Libya is currently paying.

Libya is not paying the Lockerbie price, because no verdict has been passed regarding this issue to the effect that Libya should pay this price. However, Libya, with resolutions 731, 748 and (?889), is paying the price of independence, the price of liberation, the price of emancipation, the price of it being a free and sovereign country which can say no when it wants and yes when it wants, and according to what it thinks. Those who do not pay this price are neither independent nor free. He who wants to have freedom will have to pay the price.

Therefore, we declare that we have nothing to do with Lockerbie, and that we have no interest in this issue. We do not look at it and we are closing this file, because we know that we are not going to pay the price of Lockerbie. But we are paying the price for our irreversible independence. Liberation and emancipation are irreversible, independence is irreversible. We will not retreat from the fact that we are living free under the sun and on the land of our forefathers. [cheers] [passage omitted] We have to declare, O brothers, that Egypt is in danger, Algeria is in danger, Yemen is in danger, and Sudan is in danger. We have to declare, O brothers, that these peoples are exposed to danger before the Libyan people, because the Libyan people is capable of confrontation and fighting, but these peoples have been deceived by peace, by the mirage of peace. The Arab nation is being deceived right now and a conspiracy is being fomented against it, the conspiracy of the Balkanization of the Arab nation and the tearing off of its limbs, O brothers. [passage omitted]

International Court Awards Aouzou Strip to Chad

NC0402060294 Paris AFP in English 2330 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] The Hague, Feb 3 (AFP)—Libya maintained a stubborn silence Thursday [3 February] night after the International Court of Justice rejected its long-standing claim to a strip of uranium-rich desert territory in northern Chad.

The court ruled Chad was the rightful owner of the Aouzou strip, ending a 22 year argument over ownership of the 114,000 square kilometer (45,600 square mile) border territory.

Judges ruled 16 to one, the one being the Libyan judge, in favour of Chad's claim to the desert strip, inhabited by semi-nomadic herdsmen and farmers.

"It is a victory," said Chad's representative at the court, Abderahman Dadi. The sooner Libya keeps its word to abide by the court decision and end its occupation of the area, the better, Dadi added.

Neither the Libyan authorities nor the Libyan media made any mention of the ruling.

Libya annexed Aouzou, the only town within the 1,000 kilometer (620 mile) long strip, in 1972, citing an unratified 1935 treaty between Italy, Libya's former colonial master, and France.

Court judges said the 1955 border established by a "friendship and good neighbour" agreement between France, Chad's former colonial power, and Libya, should stand.

The Libyan representative at the court left without making any comment.

The two sides opted to take the dispute before the UN's highest court in August 1990. Libya like Chad agreed to abide by the court's decision.

Sudan

New 'Terrorist' Camps Reportedly Opened in North

NC0402101294 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 9

["Exclusive" report from Shandi in Sudan's northern region]

[Text] In a new development the Sudanese Government has opened new camps for Arab terrorists in al-Hassaniyah south of Shandi, a mountainous area with difficult terrain. The government dug several wells, reclaimed 5,000 feddans of land, and set up a number of farms to ensure provisions for the "Yarmuk," "al-Hudaybiyah," and "al-Qadisiyah" camps, where Egyptian, Algerian, Tunisian, and Palestinian terrorists will be trained in addition to some Asian and African nationals.

Dr. Usamah Bin-Ladin, who is wanted by the law in several Arab countries, is helping the Sudanese Government to finance these camps. Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir issued a decree—which was published by the newspaper AL-INQADH on Wednesday, 5 January—granting 1,550 square meters of residential land to Bin-Ladin's al- Hijrah Company to build its headquarters on.

Al-Bashir's decree also transferred the ownership of "al-Mukabarat" agricultural project in the Northern region to Bin-Ladin. Agricultural produce from the project's 20,000 feddans will used to supply the terrorist camps. These camps are being opened in the Northern Region in the wake of the amendment of the Sudanese Citizenship Law.

DUP Rejects Regional Self-Determination Proposal

PM0402101394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Democratic Unionist Party Rejects Self-Determination"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The opposition Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party yesterday announced its rejection of the self-determination proposal, saying that the problem of the south and any other regional problems can only be radically solved within a democratic framework and on an amicable basis.

In a statement issued from Cairo yesterday the party called for safeguarding Sudanese unity—territory and people—"toppling the [National Islamic] Front's regime," and holding a national constitutional conference based on the Sudanese peace agreement and the charter of the [opposition] National Democratic Grouping.

It also stressed that the self-determination question in Sudan has been settled since independence in 1956.

It pointed out that this issue has two aspects: a legal aspect and a political aspect. It listed the documents opposed to undermining national unity. It said: We are not listing the legal stipulations and evidence to prove that there are no regional problems in our country, but because political debates must be based on solid legal and realistic foundations, from which to proceed toward finding solutions to the new problems.

Tunisia

Argentine Foreign Minister Hails Relations

LD0402092194 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Mr. Guido Jose Mario Di Tella, Argentine minister of foreign affairs, international trade, and protocol, ended his official visit to our country on 3 February. At a news conference he held at the airport before leaving Tunisia, he said that President Zine El Abidine had a unique personality and that his analyses were very clear. He also stressed the need to intensify exchanges between the two countries, indicating that the current export of Tunisian phosphate symbolized the new relations that the two countries intended to establish. In the same context, he said that he hoped President Ben Ali would pay a visit to Argentina, adding that such a visit would offer new opportunities to deepen bilateral relations on the one hand and to deepen Argentina's relations with the Arab world on the other hand.

The Argentine minister also talked about the importance of strengthening bilateral relations as a necessary phase for the building of relations between regional groupings, such as the Arab Maghreb Union and the Organization of Cooperation and Trade for Latin American countries [as heard]. He then touched on the subject of South-South cooperation, saying that he had discussed this matter with President Ben Ali and that strengthening bilateral relations between developing countries was the only way to improve the level of cooperation between the countries of the southern hemisphere. Finally, he announced that the Argentine economy minister would visit Tunisia next April and said he hoped this visit would open important prospects for a fruitful exchange between businessmen in the two countries.

The Argentine minister handed President Ben Ali a written message from President Carlos Menem yesterday. The minister also told President Ben Ali that his country was looking forward to his forthcoming visit, saying he hoped that it would take place as soon as possible because it would contribute to the intensification of the good relations of cooperation between the two countries.

Ukraine Reportedly Offers Warships to Gulf States

PM0302122094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Feb 94 p 1

[Amir Tahiri report: "Ukraine Offers To Sell Its Share of Soviet Navy to Gulf States"]

[Text] London—Boats, frigates, and submarines constitute part of the modern and advanced weapons which have recently been introduced to the Gulf region and its neighborhood in preparation for the next century.

While Iran a few days ago concluded the largest naval-air maneuvers of their kind in the Strait of Hormuz, it was announced yesterday that Pakistan is in the process of purchasing a very modern assaultsubmarine from Sweden costing $700 million.

Kuwait too has announced that it is currently engaged in negotiations to purchase three frigates from France. Even Iraq, which has almost nothing, has announced the formation of a high-level committee to redirect its strategy toward "the Gulf and beyond."

Sources in Washington say that Ukraine has contacted a number of states in the region, offering to sell them a substantial part of its share of the former Soviet Navy, especially assault ships [sufun hujumiyah], destroyers, speed boats, and minelayers.

Ukraine is also said to have contacted Iran and offered to sell it one Kilo submarine instead of the third submarine Iran was supposed to purchase from Moscow before the latter changed its position.

Until the end of the sixties most states in the region had focused on developing their ground forces, basing their strategies on huge tank battles along the lines of the World War II model. But after that all of them turned to the acquisition of modern aircraft, especially after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The new focus on the naval force is linked to the growing capability to launch missiles from ships against targets deep in others' territory. Western experts have accused Pakistan, Iran, and Iraq of trying to develop chemical and nuclear weapons that can be carried as warheads on medium- and long-range missiles.

A team of U.S. experts which will visit Islamabad soon is expected to raise this issue with the Pakistani Government. The United States wants Pakistan to cancel the deal concerning the development of missiles with China and to also sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Prime Minister Bhutto has indicated that she may agree to that in return for Washington's help to build her Navy.

Kuwait

Hearings Into Bush Assassination Plot To Resume

LD0402083094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0709 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 Feb—The State Security Court will tomorrow resume hearings in the case of the terrorist network which was intending to assassinate former US President George Bush during his visit to Kuwait last year. The plot was instigated and planned by the Iraqi intelligence services.

On 25 December last year, the court postponed issuing sentences in this case in which 11 Iraqi and three defendants are implicated and decided to listen again to the main witness. [passage omitted—recapitulation of charges]

Embassy in Moscow Denies Report of Frozen PLO Funds

PM0302143494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Kuwait Denies Freezing PLO Assets"]

[Text] Moscow, AL-HAYAH—The Kuwaiti Embassy in Moscow has expressed "regret" at the report carried by the official news agency ITAR-TASS claiming that Kuwait had frozen the PLO's assets in Kuwait. A statement issued by the embassy said that the PLO had transferred tens of millions of dollars since July 1991 from its accounts in Kuwait to Jordan and Switzerland without any Kuwaiti objection.

The statement emphasized that "the people and Government of the state of Kuwait adopt a principled stance in support of the Palestinian people's just cause and legitimate rights."

Yemen

YSP Reportedly Seizes Missiles Sent to South

JN0302204594 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] In a sign of complications in Yemen's political crisis, the Yemen Socialist Party said it seized antiaircraft missiles being moved by its northern rivals toward the south. A party spokesman said: An Army vehicle carrying 40 antiaircraft missiles from the north and heading south was seized by a southern brigade. He did not say when the missiles were seized, but said this was a new proof of the escalation of the political and the military tension in the country.

The announcement came hours after Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani blamed Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid's party for delaying the signing of an accord

to end the political crisis paralysing the country. Al-Iryani said: There are no arrangements for the signing of the accord neither in Amman nor inside Yemen as new conditions have been set by the Yemen Socialist Party. He said: The YSP wanted constitutional legal and security conditions not included in the accord. He did not give details, but political sources said the YSP was apparently seeking guarantees for its officials from security services run by the president's supporters.

GPC Claims South Massing Troops Against North

NC0402082494 Paris AFP in English 0624 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, Feb 4 (AFP)—Southern Yemeni forces are massing along the former border between North and South Yemen, the northern-based General People's Congress (GPC) of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih charged Thursday [3 February].

"Dozens of tanks, troop transporters and missiles are concentrated in the Shabwah region," a congress spokesman told the press here.

Military units based in the north have not moved any of their missiles, he insisted, despite allegations to the contrary from the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), which operates in the south and whose leader, Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, is in conflict with Salih.

The YSP said that southern-based units along the former border had seized a shipment of 40 anti-aircraft missiles from the north.

But the GPC spokesman charged that such reports were designed "to camouflage troop movements (from the south), deceive public opinion and divert attention away from the refusal of the YSP to sign (an) agreement in Amman this Sunday."

The draft agreement was aimed at ending a dispute over the administration of the country that has plagued Yemen since last August.

Despite the political unification of the north and the south in May 1990, the armies from the two regions have never merged.

The GPC spokesman accused the YSP of "setting new conditions, revealing its intention of going back" on the accord, which was reached January 18.

Salih and al-Bid were due to sign the agreement in Amman on Sunday, Arab diplomats in the Jordanian capital said Wednesday, but Yemeni officials warned it was unlikely the two sides would be ready by then.

A member of a mediation committee, 'Abdallah al-Jifri, predicted that the accord would probably be signed "just before Ramadan," the Moslem month of dawn-to-dusk fasting expected to start around February 12.

Signing of Accord Reportedly Postponed

JN0402100894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Feb 94 pp 1, 25

[Text] Sanaa, Amman, (News Agencies)—A responsible Jordanian source yesterday said that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who had informed Jordan of their desire to sign their agreement in Amman on Sunday [6 February], have said that they now prefer to carry out a disengagement of their forces on the ground before signing the agreement.

The source said that the two Yemeni leaders, in separate telephone contacts with Jordanian officials on 2 February, asked for Jordan's help in carrying out this disengagement.

The source said that His Majesty King Husayn contacted the two Yemeni leaders on the phone last Tuesday, at which time they agreed to meet in Amman on Sunday to sign the accord on settling the crisis.

The General People's Congress [GPC], headed by Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has ruled out the possibility of an early signing of the national reconciliation agreement to end the political crisis, blaming its rival the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] for this delay.

On 2 February, President Salih said that the agreement would be signed in the Jordanian capital on Saturday, but Planning Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, a GPC member, ruled out the early signing of the agreement.

Al-Iryani told a news conference that no arrangements have been made to sign the agreement either in Amman or in Yemen since the YSP, under Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, has come forth with new conditions.

Al-Iryani said that the GPC was preparing to go to Amman on Saturday but that information became available indicating that new conditions have been set and that he could not now say if the GPC would go to Amman on Saturday.

Al-Iryani added: The new conditions deal with constitutional, security, military, and legal affairs that were not mentioned in the agreement that the committee comprising representatives from all parties, including the GPC and YSP, reached in mid-January. The minister said: This is a new interpretation and this is strange and surprising.

Al-Iryani did not elaborate further, but political sources say that it seems that the YSP is asking for guarantees from the security bodies that are run by President Salih's supporters concerning the safety of its officials, and insists that the agreement be implemented before all of its officials return to Sanaa.

Al-Iryani said: The GPC has no reservations about the contents of the agreement. We are ready to sign everything that it contains. The GPC is even ready to sign it on board a vessel in high seas. He added: The GPC's stand is that the agreement should be signed as soon as

possible without any obstacles. Those who set new conditions should be held responsible.

The YSP yesterday said it seized antiaircraft missiles while its northern adversaries were moving them toward the south.

This announcement highlights the crisis that threatens Yemen with fragmentation and takes place at a time when political leaders have ruled out the possibility of an early signing of the agreement.

A YSP spokesman said that a southern brigade seized an army vehicle carrying 40 antiaircraft missiles from the north to the south.

Salih Accuses Kuwait, Saudis of Involvement in Crisis

JN0402125594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Sanaa, 4 Feb (INA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has said he hopes a complete solution to the current crisis in Yemen will be achieved after the accord document is signed by the Yemeni parties in the Jordanian capital soon.

In statements published by the Yemeni newspaper 26 SIBTIMBAR, the Yemeni president said the vice president, the prime minister, and other ministers from the Yemeni Socialist Party should return to Sanaa and resume their duties after signing the document. He noted that no party can implement the document without the other parties of the government coalition.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih noted that he will not object to Arab and foreign envoys attending the signing ceremony in Amman, stressing that the Yemeni parties cannot impose anyone on the host country.

Regarding the role played by the Kuwaiti regime and the Saudi authorities in agitating the current Yemeni crisis, the Yemeni president accused a Kuwaiti paper of calling for spending the last $1 billion in Kuwaiti coffers to partition Yemen. He said such an idea provokes all Yemenis.

President Salih revealed that the Saudi regime has paid large amounts of money, estimated at millions of Saudi riyals, to agitate the Yemeni crisis. He said: The fact that Saudi Arabia has paid such huge amounts of money arouses suspicions about the Saudi role in the Yemeni crisis. President Salih said this Saudi conduct is considered interference in Yemeni domestic affairs, particularly under the current circumstances.

He noted that Yemen opposes all forms of terrorism and stressed that the recent explosions and assassinations in Yemen were carried out by hired elements that oppose Yemeni unity and have been opposed to Yemeni unity ever since it was established.

Salih Addresses Troops, Says Army Not 'Pliable Tool'

JN0302212994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, attended a celebration today on the first anniversary of the founding of the 1st Armored Division.

The brother president made a speech, in which he expressed happiness to share with the brother officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops their celebration of the divisions's founding anniversary. He praised the role played by the members of the 1st Armored Division in defending the revolution since the Division was formed as a first battalion in the Armored Corps in 1967. The struggler of the Division fought bravely to defend the revolution and the Republican regime after pledging to God, the homeland, and the revolution to champion the will of the people and their aspirations for a better life. They, along with their brothers the members of the Armed Forces, were heroes in the 70-day epic when they defended Sanaa against the conspiracies of the mercenaries and the enemies of the Republican regime.

The brother chairman said: We are confident that our Armed Forces, which defended the Republican regime and made precious sacrifices, will offer more sacrifices in the defense of national and Yemeni unity and will fight anyone who entertains the idea of harming the people's great achievement. The Armed Forces will also firmly oppose all elements that try to harm the great achievement made on 22 May 1990—an irreversible achievement for all the Yemeni people that cannot be relinquished.

Addressing troops, noncommissioned officers, and officers, he said: You should be armed with national awareness and vigilance to perform your national duties in defending the people's gains, primarily unity and democracy. Your potent weapon is not armored vehicles or equipment or supplies, but your faith in God and the homeland, the revolution and unity.

We are confident that our Armed Forces in al-Mahrah, Sa'dah, Shabwah, Hadramaut, Ta'izz, Ibb, Abyan, Lahd, al-Hudaydah, Ma'rib, and any governorate in the republic, will be with the homeland and the people and will never be a pliable tool in the hands of any element or party that wants to harm the homeland, its unity, and democratic approach. Also, they will not allow the forces that are hostile to the revolution, unity, and democracy to achieve their aims or set the clock back. History has a bright record of our Armed Forces and its valiant men. At this important juncture in the life of our homeland, history will only record a bright chapter about the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and their firm support for the people's choices and their championing of its causes and constants, foremost of which is safeguarding unity and democracy. The annals of history will only include the names of sincere people who are faithful to their principles and who make sacrifices for these principles. History will not include the names of indecisive, weak characters who have no principles.

The brother chairman added: Unity was achieved by a peaceful, democratic means. It made Yemen a giant in front of the world. It is unacceptable that whims and personal interests should gain the upper hand and harm this achievement. We should be more mature in our conduct and thinking in light of this great event and the changes yielded by our new situation. I am fully confident that all the heroes of our Armed Forces will be the shield of unity and will fight relentlessly all those who urge division and all forms of regional, parochial, and racial affiliations. We are a Yemeni, Arab, and Muslim people whose loyalty is to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity.

Arab League Offer To Host Accord Signing Declined

NC0302152094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—An Arab League official has emphasized the importance of achieving Yemeni reconciliation to strengthen Arab solidarity and the Arab nation's objectives.

The official made this statement while commenting on reports that the Yemeni leadership has refused the Arab League's offer to sign the document of "the Yemeni accord agreement" at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo and prefers to have it signed in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

The official said: The place where the document will be signed is not important. The important thing is to have reconciliation between the Yemeni leaders in the interest of that country's people.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid had telephoned Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid offering to host the signing of the accord agreement between them. The Yemeni leadership declined the offer in favor of Amman, as Jordan's King Husayn was the mediator in the reconciliation between the Yemeni president and his deputy before the offer was made by the Arab League secretary general.

UN Notified of U.S. Air 'Violations' 10-20 Jan

JN0202173194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Feb 94

[Text] Iraq has protested again over the continued violations of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance, provocation, and dropping of flares.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, Iraq noted that from 10-20 January U.S. aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace. They carried out 738 air sorties covering large areas of northern and southern Iraq.

On 11 January, a U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance plane violated Iraqi airspace. Afterward, it flew in the direction of Saudi airspace. On 3 January [as heard], the same plane violated Iraqi airspace. It mainly overflew the al-Basrah, al-Nasiriyah, al-'Amarah, southern al-Diwaniyah, and southern al-Najaf areas. Afterward, it flew in the direction of Saudi airspace.

The letter indicates that on 18 January, two U.S. aircraft dropped two flares 10 km south of Alqosh in Ninawa governorate.

An enemy air formation dropped a flare south of Alqosh hamlet in Ninawa governorate. Another formation dropped a flare 10 km south of the Alqosh area in Ninawa governorate.

U.S. Media 'Distortion' of Prewar Situation Cited

JN0302162894 Baghdad INA in English 1038 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 3, INA—A senior Ministry of Information and Culture aide has exposed means used by the United States and its allies, through their media, to prepare the atmosphere for war against Iraq well before January 17, 1991.

In a lecture he gave on the role of the Iraqi media during the war in the Gulf at the Iraqi Society for Libraries and Information here on Monday [31 January], Information Undersecretary Naji al-Hadithi said the Western media resorted to all means of distortion, depicting Iraq as an aggressive state.

The media, he said, claimed that Iraq was preparing to attack Saudi Arabia while Iraq had no intention whatsoever to launch such aggression. They also used the fabricated story of incubators in Kuwait which later proved to be a public relations ploy by the American Hill and Norton company.

Mr al-Hadithi said that the Western media also played an important role in foiling the diplomatic attempts to resolve the situation. Western media had communicated to the whole world that Iraq was against diplomatic attempts to solve the problem, while on the contrary Iraq wanted to sit down with Kuwaiti and Saudi officials to resolve the issue.

Mr al-Hadithi said the Western media had distorted the minutes of a meeting between President Saddam Husayn and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad. They said President Husayn had told the U.S. envoy that Saudi Arabia "is not far away and the use of force is our only means", al-Hadithi said, adding that such a statement is not in the minutes at all.

the undersecretary said the Iraqi media with its limited potentialities had to face huge media facilities of the West which were all directed against Iraq. He said three of the 33 nations which launched the war against Iraq in 1991 possess the largest media establishments in the world. The U.S.A. possesses a large news agency, the Associated Press, Voice of America radio which dispatches its programmes in all languages, Mr al-Hadithi said, adding that the U.S. also possesses the largest television networks in the world such as CNN, NBC, ABC and CBS.

Britain also possesses big media means such as the BBC and REUTERS news agency while dispatch their news to hundreds of million of people in the world. France also has large media establishments, he added.

The undersecretary said the war against Iraq started with the idea in the West that Iraq was only a military camp full of nuclear and other weapons. Iraq's media means directed abroad had to change this Western image against Iraq, al-Hadithi said.

"Therefore, we allowed, as from September 20, 1990, few months before the war, hundreds of American, other Western and Arab journalists to come to Iraq and write about the real situation here". They visited historical sites, agricultural projects and eventually wrote about the normal life in Iraq.

Mr al-Hadithi said there was no way for planners of Iraq's media but to open the door wide for foreign journalists to come to the country before and during the war.

"While the U.S. and the allies had prevented journalists from visiting front lines in Saudi Arabia and enforced a heavy censorship on what they wrote or pictured, Iraq allowed journalists to go wherever there were U.S. and allied raids in various Iraqi provinces".

He said the U.S. Administration had tried to prevent Western journalists from staying in Baghdad in order not to report on the casualties among Iraqi civilians and the destruction of civilian facilities. He added that they invented a lie, namely that al- Rashid hotel, where foreign journalists used to stay during the war, was a bunker for Iraqi Army commanders and they threatened to attack it. All these propaganda means were used to force journalists to leave, al-Hadithi concluded.

Ramadan Meets With PLO Executive Committee Member

JN0302170194 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Excerpt) Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has received PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that the Arab masses' will is the one which decides their destiny, not the defeated wills. He said that the Iraqis, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, who adhere to their political wills and who make sacrifices for the sake of this will, constitute a vital example for the peoples who have faith in their principles. [passage omitted)

Columnist on Gulf War's Impact on World Events

JN0302143794 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 30 Jan 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "How Iraq Foiled America's Opportunity To Colonize the World"]

[Text] In his book "Seize The Moment: America's Challenge in a One Superpower World," former U.S. President Richard Nixon admits that cursed criminal George Bush's idealistic dream of establishing a new world order has been shattered by three main factors: Iraq's liberation of the governorate of Kuwait, the alertness of the national movement in Russia and Eastern Europe which opposes U.S. hegemony, and the failure of the capitalist system, the market economy, in Eastern Europe.

Nixon says that the liberation of the governorate of Kuwait was a serious turning point which changed and confused U.S. plans, and exposed the false cover that gave the impression that the world was stable and willing and ready to accept the U.S. dream of leading the world. The liberation of the governorate of Kuwait has disrupted the U.S. attempt to calmly colonize the world without any fanfare. But, the Mother of Battles changed the basic components on which criminal Bush had depended to control the world. That's why Nixon describes the plan of cursed Bush to establish a world order under U.S. leadership as an idealistic dream that faced and was shattered by solid reality.

This is the gist of what Nixon had admitted. All that we have done is replace the spiteful words he used to describe Iraq. Thus, Nixon joins the convoy of those who admit that the Mother of Battles was the midwife which gave birth to the factors of rejection and confrontation of U.S. colonialism, and has exposed the U.S. impotence in quelling the people and nations and controlling them.

When we used to say this before Nixon's book was published, some would view what we said as some sort of exaggeration, or unrealistic wishful thinking. But, here we have the strongest U.S. President after Kennedy admitting that the Mother Battles and Iraq's leader, Saddam Husayn, have changed the course of the major big events in the world and steered them in a direction that is opposite to that wished by criminal Bush. The era of fierce resistance to U.S. colonialism has thus begun.

Minister Receives German Friendship Society Chairman

JN0302174994 Baghdad INA in English 1440 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 3, INA—Health Minister Dr Umid Midhat Mubarak today received chairman of the German-Iraqi Friendship Society Professor Walter Sumerfield.

The minister reviewed in the meeting the negative impact resulting from continuation of the iniquitous blockade represented in sharp shortage of food and medical and treatment prerequisites which caused the death of thousands of children, women and elderly people.

Mr Sumerfield expressed the society's readiness to maintain its cooperation with Iraqi medical and health institutions in the way contributing to mitigating the burden on these institutions and enable them to render its services to the citizens.

Pensioners Granted Cost of Living Increase

JN0302125994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered that pensioners whose service exceeds 25 years and whose total wages and allowances are currently less than 500 dinars be granted an additional cost of living allowance totaling 25 percent of his monthly wages and allowances.

A circular issued by the Presidential Office said that the order of the leader president, may God protect him, shall take effect as of 1 February.

Rabin on 'Sacred Dates,' Political Process

TA0402121794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Report on address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to a bankers' forum in Tel Aviv and an interview with political correspondent Shlomo Raz in Tel Aviv on 4 February]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Over the past several days, the prime minister has been saying that there is no hurry. Speaking today before a bankers' forum in Tel Aviv, he said that time is not of the essence, reiterating the famous phrase: There are no sacred dates. Israel is committed to the political process, hence, the date is less important. Last week he also introduced another element that has to be concluded before the agreement is signed—the economic talks to be held in Paris. There is a wide range of issues still to be discussed, which will take a long time. Thus, there is no reason to assume that the negotiations or the implementation will end by 13 April.

The prime minister told leading Israeli bankers today that anything that is not finalized might turn into a detonator for future mishaps. This is an agreement between two entities which, to say the least, do not love each other and are constantly in friction. Therefore, the current agreement on Gaza and Jericho, as well as the agreement on the autonomy, serve as a test case for the possibility of making progress toward the permanent agreement. For that test case to succeed, the appropriate conditions must be prepared and misunderstandings should be avoided.

I would like to call attention to another remark by the prime minister regarding the events in the former USSR. National forums are thinking about this and holding consultations on this matter. Israel is definitely following and is worried by the events in the CIS. After his meeting with the bankers, Rabin spoke to the media. We will begin with the negotiations in Cairo next week and the routine consultations that are currently being held.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I will not go into detail here. When Peres meets 'Arafat in Cairo on 7 February, the goal will be to wrap up the issues on which great progress was made in Davos. I speak of wordings that must ensure clarity on the issues of security—including the border crossings and the size of the Jericho area—in order to really attain agreed-upon, clear, and understood results. After this, we will also have to advance on economic and administrative issues, and arrange the Palestinian administration. Also, we have not yet held an in-depth discussion on the structure and size of the Palestinian police. Many issues are still pending. At the same time, as far as the security issues are concerned, the heart of the matter was dealt with in Davos, and I hope it will be completed in Cairo.

[Raz] Are there differences in nuances between the Foreign Ministry and the defense establishment?

[Rabin] Come off it. In the discussions there are different officials from the Foreign Ministry and the defense establishment. They have different views. In general, we are speaking of matters that are not of prime importance, rather about the a practical implementation of the issues in the everyday life. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Peres Confirms 7 Feb Talks With 'Arafat in Cairo

TA0302204394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed today that he would meet PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat 7 February in Cairo. The meeting between the two men was supposed to take place Sunday but was postponed. In their meeting, Peres and 'Arafat will try to overcome the last obstacles to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Peres added that he expected that the agreement signed with the PLO in September would be implemented in full by the end of 1994.

IDF Urges 'Detailed' Agreement With PLO

TA0402111494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Feb 94 pp 1, 10

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Nahum Barne'a]

[Excerpt] Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers believe it is time to create a crisis in the negotiations with 'Arafat in order to make it clear that Israel does not intend to implement any more compromises in the talks with him.

It has been learned that in internal consultations with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq commented on the need for "creating a wall to block 'Arafat, an impregnable iron wall wrapped in cotton."

The chief of staff, Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq, Head of IDF Intelligence Uri Sagi and other senior defense establishment personnel have leveled sharp criticism at the way in which negotiations with the PLO are being conducted and maintain that Israel's positions are being undermined.

At the same time it is necessary to emphasize that the top IDF echelon is not opposed to the agreement with the PLO.

This morning the prime minister will consult with the chief of staff, the deputy chief of staff, the head of IDF intelligence, and senior security officials on the negotiations with the PLO. Next Monday [7 February], after the foreign minister's return from abroad, Rabin will hold an extensive consultations in anticipation of Shim'on Peres' departure for Cairo to meet with Yasir 'Arafat.

It has been learned that in the internal discussions, Peres derided "the almost obsessive occupation" with details by the defense establishment. Peres said that a year from now nobody will remember the details that the IDF is demanding to include in the agreement with the PLO.

Contrary to Peres, the top IDF echelon believes the agreement with the PLO must include as many details as possible in order to ensure the success of the agreement in the field. The position expressed to the prime minister by the IDF echelon was as follows: "The stage of constructive ambiguity and brilliant formulations is over. We have reached the implementation stage. It is impossible to settle for principles while skimping on details. The day after the agreement is implemented we will have to give platoon commanders and Palestinian policemen accurate instructions to follow. We are dealing here with thousands of people, and the Israeli public must also be informed." [passage omitted]

IDF Arrests 15 Settlers Near Ma'ale Adumim

TA0302195094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] This evening, 15 settlers were arrested as they attempted to set up a settlement near Ma'ale Adumim. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that they refused to evacuate the site. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pulled down the tent they had erected and evacuated the area.

Committee Votes To Expel Resigning Knesset Members

TA0302182294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Tzomet's Central Committee, which convened in Ari'el today, approved by a majority of votes a proposal submitted by the movement's leader Refa'el Eytan calling for the expulsion of the three resigning Knesset members: Segev, Salmovitz, and Goldfarb.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that an uproar broke out when Eytan attacked the members of one of the Tzomet branches and the news correspondents at the convention. Eytan wanted to present documents proving that there had been irregularities at Tzomet's Bat Yam branch. The news correspondents rushed to interview the Bat Yam branch members, and Eytan remarked: Look at them pouncing on the corpses. Eytan told the Bat Yam branch members that this was what they would look like tomorrow.

Congo Rebels Seek Help for Anti-Government Coup

TA0302195794 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Report by correspondent Hanan 'Azran]

[Text] Opponents of the regime in Congo are operating in Israel in an attempt to recruit Army personnel and rich businessmen to carry out a coup against Prime Minister Andre Milongo. Our correspondent has obtained secret documents in which the coup's initiators offer tremendous incentives to Israelis who will invest money in financing the revolution. They also promised $15 million in exchange for engineering the coup.

In a world of dubious business dealings, even bizarre schemes like this can sometimes be true. Therefore, a business venture seeking investors in a revolution should also be taken seriously. In the situation which has now arisen, Israelis may find themselves facing each other on the battlefield. In an attempt to maintain maximum secrecy, a representative of the underground in Congo-Brazzaville, sent a facsimile from Montreal, Canada explaining the offer to a senior Israeli reserves officer. Israel television is keeping the man's identity secret. The representative identifies himself as a political figure, with a PhD. He is looking for military experts in Israel who will be willing to carry out a coup for $15 million. He is also proposing that Israeli investors finance the revolution in return for huge incentives which include, he claims, diamond and gold mining rights in western Congo as well as 100 percent interest on their money. The payment of course will be made after the revolution and after the rebels take control of Congo's banks and foreign currency reserves.

The Congolese doctor includes maps in his proposal in which he marks out the areas under the control of his supporters, the areas controlled by the government, and the areas controlled by the prime minister's men. He notes that the Israeli embassy in Congo is aware of the underground's strength and capabilities. The situation becomes more complex when one recalls that Israelis are already involved in the training and equipping of the Congolese security forces. This involvement is the private initiative of a public investment firm, known as Carden Investments, whose offices are situated in Ramat Gan. A Carden subsidiary, Levran, recruited dozens of army officers and veterans of the Israeli security forces and sent them to Congo. Carden claims that it received the Defense Ministry's authorization to implement the deal. As reported by YEDI'OT AHARONOT, the head of the company is reserves Brigadier General Ze'ev Zakharin, who is considered an expert in training foreign armies. If the new revolution initiative takes off, Israelis may find themselves at war with each other in Congo with one group helping the government's forces and the other plotting to overthrow the Congolese Government. If such a situation indeed comes to pass, it may have serious political and ethical ramifications at the very least.

[In the same broadcast, Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew adds that "there were many reactions to this evening's report on the involvement of Israelis in plans for a revolution in Congo. The Knesset State Audit Committee will convene again to hold a detailed discussion about the actions of the Israeli

Embassy in Congo. Knesset Member [MK] Dan Tikhon, the committee's chairman, said that clear rules should be set with regard to defense related exports. Tikhon expressed fears that this would be a repeat of the Colombia affair [in which an Israeli company trained Colombian farmers suspected of belonging to a drug cartel]. Likud MK Silvan Shalom submitted an urgent motion to the agenda in which he demanded that Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, explain whether Israel had sent official advisers to Congo. Shalom also demanded that Rabin explain how reserve army officers, working for a private company, had received permission to leave for Congo to establish special units to support the regime there. In the wake of these revelations, Likud MK Avraham Herschson submitted an urgent motion to the agenda demanding that the defense minister investigate whether reserve Army officers or businessmen had any intention of accepting the proposal to finance or carry out a coup in Congo."]

Austria's Busek Meets With Palestinians, Weizman

AU0302204694 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 1830 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Report by Ben Segenreich]

[Text] [Segenreich] Vice Chancellor Erhard Busek, who is currently visiting Israel, held talks today with Palestinian representatives. Aid projects for the future autonomous areas, among other things, were discussed. The Orient House is the headquarters of the PLO in East Jerusalem. Here, Erhard Busek started the third day of his visit to Israel. His Palestinian interlocutors were headed by Faysal al-Husayni, the PLO leader in the West Bank. He expressed both concerns and wishes. There are still numerous difficulties concerning the implementation of the autonomy, Al-Husayni pointed out. The Palestinians need political, financial, and technical support from Europe and Austria, he stressed. Money for the salaries of Palestinian officials is particularly urgently required.

The meeting with State President Ezer Weizman, one of the most brilliant figures in Israeli politics, was a highlight of Busek's visit.

Mr. Busek, the most important meetings of your visit to Israel have already taken place. What is your balance sheet so far?

[Busek] The balance is very positive for Austria. I believe that the relationship between Israel and Austria is excellent. After a difficult period in the past, good contacts and close friendship and cooperation have developed within a short period.

[Segenreich] A visit to several museums along with former Mayor Teddy Kollek was part of the relaxing part of the program. At Tel Aviv University, the vice chancellor delivered a major speech on the topic "Policy for Europe." He particularly stressed the Jewish contribution to European culture.

Editorial: U.S. Human Rights Report 'Propaganda'

TA0302200294 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 3 Feb 94 p 3

[Editorial: "A Report With No Practical Application"]

[Text] The U.S. State Department's annual human rights report is not the first American report that talks about Israeli violations in the occupied territories. Its significance, however, lies in the fact that it was issued by a friendly party, not by a Palestinian or Arab party that can be accused of being biased, imbalanced, and lacking credibility.

The report mentioned torture and killings in the occupied territories before and after the signing of the Declaration of Principles, the special units and their activities, torture during interrogation, and the Israel Army's adoption of the posture of a spectator when settlers engage in their preferred pleasure—attacking Palestinian residents and their properties. All these and other violations call into question the position of the United States, as it is the strategic ally, friend, and partner of a party that over the past years committed and continues to commit these violations.

Naturally, we are not demanding from the U.S. Administration punishment for the culprit. We do not dare call on the first military power in the world to deal with Israel in the tools and concepts of the Cold War, which are still in effect against Iraq, Libya, Cuba and other third world countries and movements that previously were proteges of the other bloc before its collapse. However, we are asking—and this is our right—about Washington's responsibility in these violations and whether it has done anything other than issue annual reports in a bid to stop or ease these violations.

In order to avoid leveling rash accusations against the neutral mediator and honest sponsor and prevent further misunderstandings, we suggest to the U.S. State Department—in observance of reliability and sincerity—that it clearly asserts in the preface that this report is only for propaganda and media purposes and that it should neither be quoted nor used, because it has no practical application.

Iranian Envoys Reportedly Funding Fundamentalists

NC0302131394 Paris AFP in English 1220 GMT 3 Feb 94

[By Randa Habib]

[Text] Amman, Feb 3 (AFP)—Jordan has ordered more than 20 Iranian diplomats to leave the country because of their links with Moslem fundamentalists, political sources said Thursday [3 February].

The foreign ministry revealed it had informed the Iranian authorities at the beginning of January that 21 of its 26 diplomats here had two months to leave.

The official reason was that Jordan wanted to achieve more of a balance between the number of diplomats in each country, as Jordan has only two in Tehran, and there is no Iranian community here.

However, political sources said the government ordered out the Iranians because of their contacts with Islamic fundamentalists, who are suspected of carrying out two recent bomb attacks on sex cinemas which injured nine people.

The main fundamentalist party, the Islamic Action Front, condemned the first cinema blast, in Amman last month, but called for tighter legislation to implement a ban on sex films.

The sources said Jordan had proof that the embassy was financing the fundamentalists, and the authorities had accused the Iranian ambassador of having interfered in parliamentary elections in November.

Western diplomats told AFP the ambassador, Ahmad Dastmalchian, was formerly a member of the revolutionary guards and played a major role in setting up the pro-Iranian Hizballah guerrilla movement in Lebanon. He refused to make any comment.

Islamic fundamentalists opposed to the Middle East peace process suffered a setback in the elections, in which candidates close to King Husayn won 59 out of the 80 seats in the lower house of parliament, guaranteeing that any peace treaty with Israel would be ratified.

The fundamentalists kept only 18 of the 30 seats they held in the previous, non-party assembly elected in 1989.

Jordan and Iran resumed diplomatic relations in January 1991 after a 10-year break. Tehran broke off ties because of Amman's support for Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war from 1980-1988.

The Iranian embassy in Amman reopened in March 1991 and Jordan's embassy in Tehran soon after.

On Saturday the first secretary at the Jordanian embassy in Lebanon, Na'ib 'Umran Ma'ayitah, was shot dead in Beirut.

The killing came almost a week after King Husayn said in Washington that he hoped to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to boost chances of peace.

The Jordanian Ambassador in Beirut, Fakhri Abu-Talib, said the attack was "aimed at the (peace) process in which Jordan is involved, as well as Lebanon's efforts to restore stability and order."

Ma'ayitah was the first foreign official to be killed in Beirut since the civil war ended in 1990.

Iran Intends To Reduce Embassy Staff

JN0402093094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Feb 94 p 26

[Text] AL-RA'Y has learned that the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Amman intends to reduce the number of diplomats working in the embassy.

By the end of the month, 21 Iranian diplomats working in the Iranian Embassy are expected to leave Amman in response to a Jordanian Government request that the Iranian Government reduce the number of diplomats working in its mission in Jordan to a number equal to that of the staff of the Jordanian diplomatic mission in Tehran.

The Iranian Government responded favorably to the Jordanian Government's request to reduce the number of staff at its diplomatic mission in Jordan.

King Husayn Visits Jordanian Troops in Croatia

JN0302200694 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, today visited the Jordanian troops operating within the international peacekeeping forces in Croatia. His majesty was briefed on the tasks the Jordanian units are carrying out and their role in keeping security and stability within the framework of the international forces. His majesty also met with officers and ranks of the three Jordanian battalions stationed in Croatia, and expressed his pride in and appreciation for their peackeeping function.

The commander of the international forces in Croatia had given a speech in which he welcomed his majesty the supreme commander. We are aware of the importance of the humanitarian duty assigned to us and the fine reputation our country has thanks to the Hashemite leadership, he added.

Comments on Purpose of Visit

JN0302210494 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty the king visited Jordanian troops serving under the United Nations flag in Croatia. Upon arrival in Zagreb Airport, his majesty, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, expressed hope for the

return of peace in the former Yugoslavia. The king said the Jordanians were privileged in playing a peacekeeping role in that region:

[Begin recording] [Husayn] The purpose of my visit is, obviously, to have the chance to see Jordanians who've had the privilege to represent our country in the search for peace and security for our friends in this entire region. And it is certainly our hope that, before too long, we shall see things develop in that direction, God willing.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you so much.

[Husayn] Thank you very much. [end recording] [passage omitted]

His majesty the king later flew to Austria on the final leg of his overseas trip before returning to Amman.

King Visits Vienna, Discusses Peace Talks

JN0402102594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Vienna this evening on a short visit to Austria during which his majesty will hold talks with top Austrian officials on developments in the Middle East peace process, the situation in the Balkan region, and bilateral relations.

Before this, his majesty visited the Jordanian troops operating within the international peacekeeping forces in Croatia. [passage omitted]

At the end of the visit, His Majesty King Husayn, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, spoke to a number of Jordanian newspaper correspondents.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified Correspondent] Your Majesty the King, if you will allow me, I have a question about the talks Your Majesty held in the United States on the peace process. Can you tell us about the outcome of these talks, and since Jordan is concerned about the issue of peace, do you think that there is progress on the [Jordanian] track?

[Husayn] The visit was very successful. Contacts at all U.S. official levels were good, starting with President Clinton, the U.S. Administration, and many of those I met with who are concerned about peace in the entire region. Naturally, we began talks on the various tracks at that time. Afterwards, we followed reports from Davos and the meeting that was held there. I believe that there has been progress achieved on certain issues and that our stand is clear toward them. We supported our kinfolk and brothers until they decided to talk on behalf of themselves and we will continue to support them to the best of our ability.

We are seeking a comprehensive, durable, and just peace that is acceptable to future generations. However, in terms of the Jordanian-Israeli track, we began discussing the items on the agenda. We were never convinced of the proposals that have been presented from time to time on signing a peace treaty first and then starting discussions all the requirements of peace. We are marching toward peace, but we have to tackle all important issues in a manner that satisfies God, our consciences, and our people. May God bless us in this endeavor.

[Correspondent] Sir, can you give us the honor of reporting to the Jordanian citizens about your health condition?

[Husayn] May God bless you. Thanks be to God. The results were very good. They did not find any traces of the illness. They only asked that I undergo a final medical checkup within six months and then routine annual checkups, nothing more or less. Everything is good, thanks be to God. [end recording]

Meets With Austrian President

JN0402093794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Austrian President Thomas Klestil held talks in Vienna yesterday. Their discussions dealt with bilateral relations and efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The Austrian president held a dinner banquet in honor of his majesty the king. The banquet was attended by top Austrian officials. His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks today with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

His Majesty King Husayn, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, arrived in Vienna last night, arriving from Croatia where he visited the Jordanian troops operating within the international peacekeeping forces there. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri Leaves on 'Surprise' Visit to Damascus

NC0302173694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] At about 1715 today, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus on a surprise visit, accompanied by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and Minister of State Jean 'Ubayd. It has been learned that Prime Minister al-Hariri will hold talks in Damascus within the framework of the continuous consultations between Lebanese and Syrian officials on various issues of interest to the two countries and the Cooperation and Coordination Treaty between them.

Consultations on Talks 'Intensified'

NC0402115894 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Contacts to coordinate Lebanese-Syrian positions toward developments, especially the consultations between Arab and Israeli chief delegates in Washington, which have been suspended until 15 February, have been intensified. President Ilyas al-Hirawi's telephone conversation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was part of these contacts. Also in this context is the visit to Damascus last night by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Ministers Muhsin Dallul and Jean 'Ubayd and their meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and a number of Syrian officials.

Al-Hariri returned to Beirut this morning and later met with the visiting World Bank mission to discuss financing of some projects.

Israeli Air, Sea, Land Escalation Reported

NC0402123594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The Zionist enemy escalated its land, sea, and air aggression against Lebanon today. Enemy forces bombarded the western and central sectors of south Lebanon this morning. Israeli gunboats cruised off the Lebanese coast in south Lebanon and enemy helicopters strafed several areas.

At 1115 today a resistance group attacked Bra'shit and Bayt Yahun posts and reports say they scored direct hits on both posts. Zionist enemy forces bombarded Bra'shit, Tibnin, and Haddatha. More than 10 shells landed in Bra'shit. The townships of al-Mansuri, Majdal Zun, Buyut al-Sayyid, and Zibqin came under sporadic artillery barrage that continued until noon and caused heavy property damage. An Amal resistance group retaliated by attacking the Jisr al-Hamra' and claimed the destruction of a 12.7-mm machine-gun post.

According to later reports from Tyre, the Islamic Resistance attacked two enemy posts in al-Hamra' and Radar Hill this morning. During the attack, resistance men detonated explosive charges near enemy patrols in the two villages. Hostile helicopters strafed the towns of a-Mansuri and Buyut al-Sayyid along with hostile gunboats. Hostile warplanes flew several sorties over the south this morning.

SLA Concerned Over Possible Israeli Withdrawal

TA3001175494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jan 94 p 10

[Report by military correspondent Arye Kiesel]

[Text] The talk about possible Israeli withdrawal from the security zone in the framework of the anticipated arrangement with Syria has generated great anxiety among members of the SLA [South Lebanese Army] upper echelons.

The remarks by U.S. elements in Washington to the effect that the arrangement with Syria will necessitate a phased Israeli withdrawal from the security zone to be carried out over several years have reached senior SLA officers and caused much concern.

In conversations with senior officers at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Northern Command, SLA Commander Antoine Lahd's aides voiced serious anxiety over the possibility of being deserted by Israel. An SLA officer has told IDF commanders: "We are afraid you will leave us, and we will become a target for the Lebanese and the Syrians."

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the Northern Command commander, and brigadier General Gabi Ashkenazi, chief of the Liaison Unit With Lebanon, apprised their interlocutors of the remarks of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, who said during a tour of Qiryat Shemona three weeks ago that Israel will not desert its allies in south Lebanon. The SLA has been apprised of the basic conditions for any possible arrangement in south Lebanon and of the Israeli demand to guarantee the local residents' safety.

Contract Aims To Study Telecommunications Sector

NC0302214094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] A contract was signed today between the Development and Reconstruction Council and the Deloitte and Touche company under which the company will prepare a study on reorganizing the Telecommunications Ministry to establish a more productive and effective telecommunications sector. The study also aims to provide the necessary conditions for attracting local and foreign capital. The Development and Reconstruction Council has received an urgent loan from the World Bank to rehabilitate the various sectors and improve the level of services.

Paper Urges Israel To Address 'Substance' in Talks

JN0302083394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN says: Israeli discourse on peace in the Middle East and the prospects for achieving it is lopsided. This discourse misrepresents facts, and is full of contradictions.

The paper discusses statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in which he said that the dispute with Syria concerns substantive issues, contending that the problem lies in the level of representation in the negotiations.

TISHRIN reacts to these statements, saying: If the problem concerns substance rather than form, why then this Israeli determination to continue to raise the issue of representation in the negotiations, particularly since the negotiations should not be an end in itself? As a matter of fact, the negotiations should be a means to achieve an end; namely, the attainment of just and comprehensive peace, which should not lend itself to various interpretations and over which there should be no bargaining.

TISHRIN adds: Middle East peace must be just and comprehensive. It must be grounded in the relevant international resolutions. It must also result in the return of the territories to their rightful Arab owners, as called for in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which provide for the complete Israeli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967; namely, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the Golan, not to mention the unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in implementation of Resolution 425.

TISHRIN wonders: Why has Israel failed to respond to the ideas and principles reiterated by leader al-Asad at the Geneva summit—the very ideas and principles which were accepted and, indeed, espoused by the United States to accelerate the peace process?

The paper says: The United States has also acknowledged Syria's leading role in the peace process. The ball now is in the Israeli court. Israel is well aware that had it, at least, heeded the Madrid conference formula, and sincerely honored the provisions enshrined in the U.S. peace initiative, chief among which is the provision regarding the principle of exchanging land for peace, the peace process would not have run into all these snags, difficulties, and traps. Similarly, the peace process would not have reached a dead end.

In one of its articles, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the evasive Israeli policy toward the peace process, saying: Israel, which has flooded the world with sweet words, particularly after the Labor Party assumed power, has concluded the Gaza-Jericho accord with the Palestinians to evade commitment to the peace process as outlined at the Madrid conference.

The paper adds: Israel forced its dictates and conditions in the vague Gaza-Jericho accord, the implementation of which has run into difficulties, although it is an Israeli formulation for Palestinian autonomy. Since the conclusion of this accord, Israel has been promoting partial settlements, contending that it needs time to digest the Oslo accord. This shows a desire on its part to evade commitment to the peace process. It is to be recalled that Israel showed a great reluctance to join this process in Madrid in the first place.

The paper addresses the Israeli stand toward the Syrian role in the peace process, saying: Israel has rediscovered that it cannot overlook Syria's role and position, which have been acknowledged by the U.S. Administration and the world at large. The entire world community has realized that Syria has a basic and important role to play on all tracks of the negotiations. This role is required if just and comprehensive peace is to be achieved, and if the region is to enjoy security and stability.

The paper concludes by saying: Syria has constantly reiterated its stand toward peace, which must be grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions passed by the UN Security Council. This is essential if peace is to be just and comprehensive. Such peace will certainly benefit the region and the world at large.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call Lebanese President

JN0302213494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening. They discussed issues of interest to both countries.

Afghanistan

'Source:' Kabul Forces Not Accepting Cease-fire

LD0302221394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Fighting has decreased between rival groups in Afghanistan. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad.

[Unidentified correspondent] Kabul was relatively calm today with clouds, rain, and snow calming clashes between rival groups.

Meanwhile a source close to the government of Borhanoddin Rabbani reported attacks by government fighter planes on the northern Afghan airport of Jozjan.

The source who is close to Rabbani, also emphasized that forces supporting the president will not agree to a fresh temporary cease-fire in the current fighting.

The coordination council in opposition to Rabbani's government announced last night that, following a request by the UN secretary general's special envoy in Afghan affairs, the opposition was ready to accept a four-day cease-fire on the condition that negotiations would concentrate on the resignation of Rabbani from his post.

In reply to this suggestion by the opposition, the source, Seyyed Habib Shah Hamed, emphasized that Rabbani will hold the presidential post until the end of his term.

Meanwhile the Kabul Jihadi commanders and a 100-strong mediation group from east Afghanistan, led by Maulawi Jallalulddin Haqani, who have spent three days in Kabul, continued their negotiations today with the representatives of President Rabbani and Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, and tried to prepare and propose a mediating plan that would be acceptable to both sides so as to prepare the grounds for negotiations and an understanding between the president and the prime minister of Afghanistan.

Fighting at Sheberghan Airport Leaves 250 Dead

LD0302151094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Some 250 notorious members of Dostam's militia were killed in Sheberghan airport yesterday as a result of attacks by the Islamic state airforces.

A BAKHTAR Information Agency military correspondent reported that heroic pilots of the country bombed Sheberghan airport yesterday and, in addition to killing 250 infamous militia, inflicted heavy losses on the structures of this airport.

Sources connected to the country's airforce said that as a result of air operations, which were mounted against the Sheberghan airport during the last two days, a number of enemy aircraft were set on fire and the airport has been rendered useless.

Commentary Examines Cease-Fire, Peace Efforts

LD0302224194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Throughout the course of history Afghanistan has been the center of the greatest human civilizations, and its people ruled a part of the region for many centuries. Now too they are capable of resolving their problems. BAKHTAR's political commentator writes:

The experience of the past 19 months in Afghanistan reveals that the mediation efforts of Afghanistan's neighbor extinguished the fire of war for a limited period. A few days later the fire of war has been rekindled and is destroying the people. To cut the roots of fighting for good and to create a reliable calm in the country, it is necessary for the mojahedin to come together and resolve their problems.

Despite the fact that the Islamic State of Afghanistan respects the efforts of all peace seekers and well-wishers and follows their proposals to the best of its abilities, this time it wants a cease-fire to take effect with the party of Golboddin Hekmatyar through an understanding inside the country. But the jihadi parties should not support the atheist and infamous militia, nor should they provide grounds for their further existance. The Jalalabad agreement and the Mecca Convention resolved the problem of Afghanistan in a shallow and temporary way—the roots of fighting and the problems stayed and so we saw a resumption of the fighting. The important point is that the other side accepts negotiations only after suffering defeat militarily. Now the putschist coup d'etat has failed and Dostam's militia have lost their positions and fortifications. The supremacy of the state has been established following the downing of eight aircraft by the air force of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the destruction of six aircraft on the ground.

Outside the country, too, the Babrak-Dostam-Golboddin triangle's political effforts have failed. This anomalous and unnatural coalition created such an atmosphere for themselves, both militarily and internationally, that they should be considered as having no specific identity or policy. Even international observers have been faced with uncertainty about the real identity of this triangle—the public alliance of the Muslim extremist Golboddin with very infamous communists.

From the outset the Islamic State of Afghanistan has stated its policy in this battle: a cease-fire with the mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami and continuation of the jihad until the elimination of Dostam's militia. And no one is as well qualified as the Afghans themselves to draft the details of a cease-fire and its implementation.

Parties Send Delegation to Iran, Saudi Arabia

94LA0070A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Jan 94 pp 1, 4

[Article by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Afghan Opposition Dispatches Delegation to Saudi Arabia and Iran to Express Its Opinion"]

[Text] Peshawar—An Afghan opposition delegation is preparing to go to Saudi Arabia and Iran to familiarize the two countries' officials with the opposition's demands and with its proposals to settle the crisis between itself and President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

AL-HAYAH has learned that the delegation, which represents the High Coordination Council for the Islamic Revolution, includes 'Abdol Hadi Arghandwal as representative of the Hezb-e Eslami (led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar); Hashamatollah Mojaddedi on behalf of the Islamic National Liberation Front (led by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi); Dr. Talib on behalf of the (pro-Tehran) Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat; and 'Abdol Samad on behalf of the Uzbek militias.

The delegation will leave for Tehran today and will proceed for Riyadh from there, carrying with it the opposition's leaders' visions and viewpoint on settling the crisis.

The delegation has met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ali and ambassadors of the [UN] Security Council member states, in addition to heads of the Islamic states' diplomatic missions in the Pakistani capital.

The meeting was held at a time when opposition sources have said that the Pakistani foreign minister has agreed in principle to the opposition plan that calls for the resignation of the president and his prime minister simultaneously, for withdrawal of the armed elements from the capital, and for forming a provisional council to manage the country's affairs until elections are held.

Meanwhile, the two parties to the conflict have continued their military preparations at a time when fierce fighting has been raging on between them in Kabul. AL-HAYAH has learned that Hekmatyar has told Afghan notables who met with him recently that he is about to complete building a military airfield in Surkhab, south of Kabul.

This is the second airfield constructed by Hekmatyar in the areas under his control. The first airfield, built two weeks ago in Dasht-e Saqawa, near Char Asiab (where Hekmatyar lives), was subjected to missile attacks launched by the government forces. But the new airfield is located beyond the government missiles' range and it can accommodate fighter aircraft, contrary to the old airfield, which can only accommodate passenger and freight aircraft.

Informed sources have told AL-HAYAH that Surkhab Airfield has been fitted with a very sophisticated radar capable of monitoring the airspace extending to the Pakistani border. It is well known that the Surkhab Airfield plan has been ready since the days of former President Mohammad Daud (1973-78) and that this airport was supposed to be an alternative to the current Kabul Airport.

Moreover, battles continued between government and opposition forces yesterday and military aircraft controlled by General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek militias' commander, raided artillery positions in central and northern Kabul for the second consecutive day.

The aircraft targeted the hill on which the television tower is built and where artillery pieces belonging to (pro-Rabbani) former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, whose faction controls the central part of the Afghan capital militarily, are deployed.

Bangladesh

Daily Notes Clinton State of Union Speech

BK0302163994 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 31 Jan 94 p 2

[From the "Ghare Bahire" column by Sandhani]

[Text] President Bill Clinton has delivered his first 'State of the Union' speech. In this speech, the President referred to the past and also spoke about the future. He did not bother about the present. Perhaps, Clinton did so because the present is very temporary while the future is everlasting.

According to the provisions of the U.S. Constitution, the president must give the State of the Union speech every year. George Washington and John Adams used to come personally to the Congress to deliver their speech. Their successors used to send their written speech to the Congress and these were read out. This practice continued for almost 100 years. Later, during the rule of President Wilson and President Franklin, the previous practice of the president coming to the Congress to deliver his State of the Union speech started again. This system is continuing till today.

The State of the Union speech is very important as it focuses on issues relating to the domestic and foreign policies of the United States. President Clinton has also referred to both domestic issues and foreign policy matters in his speech. He dwelt at length on the steps taken by his administration during the past year and also elaborated on the plans of his government for the current year. The President did not make any attempts to hide his failures. This distinguishes a leader of a developed country from those of the developing countries. Referring to his election pledges, the President said that a pragmatic budget was formulated last year with a view to bringing economic discipline to the country. He also referred to the signing of the NAFTA and GATT accords. President Clinton categorically stated that no

compromise with national interests have been made in any sector. He claimed that the number of job opportunities created by his government over the past year exceeded those created in the previous four years. The President also gave an outline of the programs taken up by his government for the year 1994. He said the new programs are aimed at creating more job opportunities, improving health care facilities, curbing the crime rate, and preventing drug abuse. The President further stated that expenditures in over 300 programs will be curtailed and 100 domestic projects will be ended in order to develop the economy. He, however, stated that there will be no reduction in the military budget and added that the efficiency of the armed forces will remain unchanged so that they can face any situation.

Dwelling on foreign policy, the President said that the United States would continue to extend its assistance for the cause of democracy and the protection of human rights. He also stated that U.S. support for economic reforms in Russia will continue. But he did not elaborate on whether any emergency assistance will be provided to Russia. It may be mentioned that the Second World War did not only lead to the downfall of German fascism, but also shattered the economy of several European countries. According to some historians, the Second World War was won by Britain, but it lost its colonies. Similar was the fate suffered by the Dutch, the Portuguese, and the French, who also lost their empires. After the war, the Indian subcontinent also became independent. Mandatory Western rule came to an end in several countries of the Middle East and an armed struggle was launched in Africa to overthrow the white rule. After the Second World War, the Europeans did not have the power to hold on to their colonies. Their condition was precarious. As a result, Churchill lost the elections held in his country. At that time only the United States was unaffected by the war and it earned a lot of money by selling arms. After the war, the United States under the "Marshall Aid" program funneled huge assistance to Europe and helped the war ravaged countries rebuild themselves. Though the former Soviet Union was the worst affected by the war, it did not receive any assistance. During the war it had to fight to protect every inch of land in Leningrad and Stalingrad. At the end Stalin himself took over the command of the army and was able to change the course of the war by his wisdom, farsightedness, and military strategy. Later, some scholars opined that Stalin committed some blunders and said that the present day Russia is the outcome. Massive assistance is needed for the development of the Russia. President Clinton has admitted this, but he has not given any hint regarding "Marshall Aid" to Russia.

We should not emulate everything which takes place in the United States. But the modern world is so small that it is very difficult to keep our eyes shut. We have to import everything—not only the design of bridges and roads, but also fashion. If we look closely it could be observed that we import more bad things in comparison to the good ones. It is difficult to say whether we will be able to learn some good lessons from the State of the Union speech made by President Clinton. While dwelling on the programs of his government, President Clinton did not criticize former governments. He has only stated what he has done and what he intends to do. His speech also reflected the priority given by him to the interests of his nation. He has given emphasis on the creation of more job opportunities, curtailing expenditure, and preventing misuse of funds. The President also did not hesitate to tell his countrymen that there is no alternative to hard work for the development of the country. There is nothing new in what he has said. Everybody knows that hard work is the key to progress. The leaders of the Third World countries are also aware of it. We have seen that the GATT talks were about to fail due to the conflicting interests of different countries, including the United States, France, and Italy. In spite of this, however, none of the negotiators sacrificed the interests of their respective countries. They did so because employment opportunities will shrink if they fail to develop trade and industry. It may be said that creation of employment opportunities is the most important yardstick for measuring the success or failure of a government.

The full text of the State of the Union speech by President Clinton has not been published in any newspaper of our country. There is a lot to learn from portion of his speech which has been published. But, will we learn any lessons from his speech?

India

PRC Spokesman Comments on Border Talks in Delhi

BK0302160694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] India and China today began discussions on reduction of troop levels on the line of actual control. The expert group set up to assist the joint working group of both the countries met in New Delhi and both sides reiterated their determination to successfully carry out the task. The group will formulate measures to implement the agreement on maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the line of actual control signed during the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to China last September.

Meanwhile, in Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed the hope that the ongoing Sino-Indian expert group talks in New Delhi will mark a step forward in the settlement of the boundary issue. Responding to queries, the spokesman said the purpose of the talks is to implement the understanding and agreement reached between the two sides. He said there is tranquillity along the border and this fact is to the satisfaction of both China and India.

The leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr. Fu Xuezhang, called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr.

R.L. Bhatia. Mr. Fu informed the minister of the friendly atmosphere and the discussions in the experts group which met for the first time. Mr. Bhatia expressed the hope that the discussions will be successful. The group will continue its talks tomorrow.

Spokesman Questions Pakistan's Bhutto on UN Remarks

BK0402083394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a government spokesman questioned the moral right of Pakistan Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto to take up the issue of human rights in Kashmir. He said Pakistan sponsored militants are the main violators of human rights. He pointed out that since January 1990, these militants have killed as many as 2,300 innocent civilians—mostly Kashmiri Muslims—and abducted more than 1,000 people.

Commentary Notes Remarks

BK0402113294 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Commentary by Ashok Sharma]

[Text] For over four years now, Pakistan has been turning all international meetings into a battleground to embarrass India, particularly on human rights issue. Constrained somewhat by the accepted of not raising bilateral issues at such gatherings, Pakistan has taken to raising the Kashmir issue under the garb of the alleged human rights violations in the valley. In this attempt Pakistan has been encouraged to a great extent by the Clinton administration making the human rights issue its major policy plank. A view seems to prevail in Islamabad that Washington can intercede on its behalf and force India to agree to a solution on terms favorable to Pakistan. Excelling her predecessor Mr. Nawaz Sharif in anti-India tirade, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's private attitude toward India has vitiated whatever atmosphere had been generated for good-neighborly ties in recent years.

Recently, the dispute drowned all hopes at the Human Rights Commission meeting at the Geneva with Ms. Bhutto stopping just short of calling for an all out war against India. Her aim seems to build pressure on the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations to pass a resolution against India. She said that success of any future talks between Islamabad and New Delhi had to be linked to the human rights situation in the Kashmir valley. Pakistan's insistence on the implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir belied its intentions. Indian finance minister and leader of Indian delegation to the 50th session of the UN Human Rights Commission at Geneva, Dr. Manmohan Singh, exposed the game plan of Pakistan and said to this date 45 years later, Pakistan continues to remain in illegal occupation of one-third of Jammu and Kashmir in violation of the UN resolution and, therefore, there is no possibility for a plebiscite as a precondition of this said UN resolution demands that Pakistan will have to withdraw all its forces and tribal population from the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India not only enjoys perfect legal validity, but had also been sanctified by a popular will. Seeking the support of the world community in its struggle against Pakistan's sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that this externally inspired terrorism challenged India's territorial integrity and sought to divert its intentions from the basic task of nation-building. Lambasting Pakistan for misusing the UN forum to launch an uncalled- for tirade against India on human rights, he said that an index of India's commitment to human rights and the rule of law was the restraint shown during the Hazratbal crisis generated by the seizure of the holy shrine by Pakistan-supported terrorists.

Earlier, replying to Pakistani Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's harp on human rights in Kashmir, former chief minister of jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, termed the propaganda as false and malicious and said that it was a well-planned attempt on her part to promote terrorism in the state with a view to grab it. He also reminded Pakistan of the tragic plight of the Ahmediyas, the Sindhis, Shi'ites, Christians and other minority communities in that country which is a telling commentary on Islamabad's concern for human rights.

Human rights in India are well protected. A national commission for human rights has been established which is quite powerful. Indian legal system also provided sufficient remedial framework of punishing human rights violations. Permanent under secretary of British Foreign Office, David Gillmore, who is on a visit to India has lauded the sensitivity of Indian Government toward human rights. He has praised India's continuing and ever greater transparency in Kashmir on human rights issue and called for strong action by international community against states who are guilty of cross border terrorism.

Rao Discusses Bilateral Ties With Kohl in Berlin

BK0402062494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] India and Germany have expressed concern at the dangers posed by religious extremism. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl called for immediate steps to check the spread of this threat. Briefing newsmen on the one-to-one talks between Mr. Rao and Dr. Kohl, an official spokesman said in Bonn that the two leaders discussed Indo-Pakistan relations. The prime minister reiterated that India is in favor of peaceful relations with Pakistan. Mr. Rao, however, regretted that despite New Delhi's efforts, the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has taken a strident view. Referring to the package of proposals offered by India following the recent foreign secretary-level talks, Mr. Rao expressed the hope that

continuance of worthwhile dialogue will yield positive results. During the talks, Bonn promised to take steps to speed up access of German technology to India. The German chancellor, Dr. Helmut Kohl, said bottlenecks, if any, will be removed. He promised to support India in its dealings with the European Union. Germany has a prominent place in the Union. Our correspondent, S. Sudarshanam, understands that Mr. Rao spoke about human rights environment in India and the steps taken to protect and promote the human rights aspirations of the people. Earlier, the German foreign affairs minister, Dr. Klaus Kinkel, called on the prime minister.

The prime minister is visiting Berlin later today. Our special correspondent, Karuppaswamy, reports:

[Begin Karuppaswamy recording] Berlin is one of the very big cities in the world outside India with a full-fledged museum dedicated exclusively to Indian art. There are several streets named after Ravindranath Tagore, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi. And Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose visited the city for the possible assistance during freedom struggle. Mr. Narasimha Rao will be received by the federal president, Dr. Richard Von Weizsacker. His engagements during his two days of visit to Berlin include a meeting with the governing mayor of the city, the German indologists, and representatives of the industry and commerce. [end recording]

Commentary Views Prospects for German Investment

BK0402062794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Commentary by A. Karuppaswamy]

[Text] The Indo-German relations and cooperation in industry and scientific development has a new vigor with the visit of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to Germany. The Germans also take cognizance of the importance of such a visit when Germany is renewing its outside endeavor and enagement after two and a half years of internal problem of unification. Businessmen and industrialists along with the government were very busy during the last two years. Inactivities concerned with creating parity between the two Germanys radically opposed with each in everything except the geographical contiguity artificially separated by a manmade wall [sentence as heard].

Germany is now looking for new grounds for investing and adequate return for their investment. The economic reforms toward globalization of market in India has made Germany immensely interested in collaboration. Mr. Narasimha Rao's assurance to the German industrialists that India is pressing ahead with economic reforms is a reassurance to many of them for removing their hesitation to open new units or financing Indian projects. The creation of an Asian-Pacific Committee of German Industry is a major step toward consolidating Indo-German cooperation. The low labor cost and skill of workers and the fairly unexploited market in India is the most potential market for German industrialists. The meeting between the prime minister and the federal minister for economic development and the German cochairman of the Indo-German Consultative Group in Bonn has paved the way for narrowing down some of the constraints.

India's largest trading partner and market for Indian export in Europe will further invite Indian exports of silk, textiles, leather, basic chemicals, precious stones and engineering item. On their side, investment in lignite-based power plants, joint ventures like power equipment and scientific and institutional establishments are some of the added German ventures in India contemplated immediately. The German Investment Development Company, which has an office in Bombay, is accelerating its involvement in speeding up implementing the 2,500 approved projects for collaboration. In all, Germany is expected to exploit the scheme with the potentials of 75,000 rupees.

Politically, the Indo-German relations are always cordial and consistent with adequate understanding in international fora. Germans are well aware of the fact that India was one among the first to establish diplomatic relations with Germany after the withdrawal of allied forces. The unequivocal stand of Germany on developments in Kashmir and its neutrality speaks of its noninterference in other country's affairs. Such friendly attitude and closer economic ties are bound to reflect in Indo-German growth as viable economic powers.

Minister Urges Vigilance Along Bangladesh Border

BK0402062294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has urged the security forces along the country's border with Bangladesh to be more alert. Addressing the personnel of the Assam Rifles in Shillong, he said insurgent activities of the region are on the increase during the past few months. Later, he met the Meghalaya chief minister, Mr. S.C. Marak, and senior state government officials.

Mr. Pilot, who is now on a visit to the northeastern region, told our correspondent that he will hold discussions with the state governments on matters relating to security and law and order. He said Pakistan is trying to make inroads in the region by aiding and abetting some insurgent groups through Bangladesh.

Iran

Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayer Sermon, Notes Events

LD0402125194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Today's formidable Friday prayers, on the fourth day of the auspicious Ten Days of Dawn—the day of

prayer, jihad, promotion of virtue and prohibition of vice—was held in Friday prayer venues throughout the state with the participation of masses of worshippers and in full glory. In today's Tehran Friday prayer sermons President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave an analysis of the trend of the revolution as a crucial historical happening. He said: The causes and instruments of that most important happening—which requires a most scholarly analysis from various global, regional, Islamic, ideological, and political dimensions—must be looked for in three important factors: the vigilance and awareness of the people and their presence in the arena, the role of the leadership and guidance, and the creation of trust between the people and their leaders.

Tehran's ad hoc Friday imam considered the people's vigilance and awareness to be the most powerful factor in the victory of the Islamic revolution. He said: The vigilance and presence of the people in the arena are not only factors in the victory of the revolution but also its safeguard in the face of all events, such as the war and the conspiracies, and give continuation to the revolution during the period of construction, planning, and implementation of important and infrastructural tasks.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani described the human forming ideology of Islam as the most important factor in the awareness of the people, and he referred to the role of the pioneer clerics and religious scholars—especially the most crucial role played by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the departed imam, may God Almighty be satisfied with him—in making people aware during the 20 years of struggle before the revolution and the human forming role of that worthy source of emulation. He said: If a leader—or a party—with an objective wishes to succeed he must nurture vigilant and knowledgeable people. And in Iran, under the auspices of the wise leadership of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, such a thing came to pass.

The president called the existence of trust between the people and their leaders as the basis of movement and progress and as the instrument of eliminating problems and struggle against sabotage. He considered it as one of the most important factors of concern for the enemies. In this regard he said: The enemies of the revolution, who had discovered this secret of success, embarked on an extensive effort, from the first days of the Islamic revolution, to create a rift between the people and the leadership and the authorities. The imperialist propaganda in this regard never ceased and their satanic move still continues. But what has broken the back of the enemy is the existence of the popular sentiment and the wholesale and constant presence of the arena.

Referring to the assassination attempt on his life and the aims of the enemies of the revolution, the president said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] This incident to which your attention has now been drawn—the assassination attempt—to my mind this is a very minor issue which can always happen. A few people can always give rise to a small incident. However, these things are no longer of any importance to the revolution. You should feel quite reassured about that. The revolution has now become quite separated from individuals. I said that the revolution has reached the stage of maturity; it is no longer a child which needs suckling. It provides its own sustenance. A lofty figure like the imam of the ummah departed from among these people. At that time we shuddered to think about what would happen when the imam would no longer be among us. Then we witnessed this calm movement of an ocean of people, and this Islamic revolution continues forever on its path. Through divine guidance, this ship correctly continues its voyage toward its destination in this tumultuous ocean.

How effective can individuals be any longer in this revolution that others should put themselves in trouble, should put themselves in danger so that a certain individual may or may not be there; and that a person like me who is one of the most minor soldiers of this revolution!

I say that world arrogance, America, and others should really know that in Iran they should give up the hope that by the physical or psychological elimination of individuals they can overcome the revolution.

May God protect you, your revolution and the leader of the revolution. We are very weak soldiers. There are many people like me who can be in the service of the people. [end recording]

Describing the assassination attempt on his life, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The plotters thought that by carrying out such a plot on the first day of the ceremonies marking the Ten Days of Dawn at a gathering which was attended by all foreign guests and reporters, they could disrupt the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the revolution, through a move which was minor in itself but which would have caused a great deal of publicity. By doing that, they wished to show to the world that the Islamic revolution has lost its luster [kamrang shodeh ast] in Iran. But, fortunately, they did not achieve any of their goals.

The president sincerely thanked the people for all their good wishes and sentiments in expressing their anxiety about the assassination attempt on his life. Thanking all the political and religious figures, various strata of the people and departments and organizations, the president asked that all the messages in this connection should come to an end.

Continuing his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the inauguration of a number of very important projects during the Ten Days of Dawn, noting the inauguration of the Arak petrochemical complex and thousands of urban and rural projects. He said: The people are very well aware of the realities and enemy propaganda which says that the revolution has lost its glamor has no effect on them.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: After the passing of 15 years, the Islamic revolution is now, more than ever, blooming and very well supported and we see its roots solid, its sacred offshoots healthy and the people most aware and in line with the revolution. The conspiracies hatched traditionally by the enemies aimed at the destruction of the revolution no longer have any effect. The 22 Bahman [11 February] marches will be a strong response to those who design such plots to weaken the revolution and the presence of the people on the scenes.

The president stressed: The people today find that what they staged the revolution for remains as strong as ever. Magnifying the problems and belittling the services, a ploy always used by arrogance, no longer undermines their resolve.

In the second sermon, the president referred to the fourth day of the Ten Days of Dawn, the day of prayers, jihad, and propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice. He described the role of such issues in the continuation of the Islamic revolution as fundamental.

Khomeyni Delivers Thanksgiving Prayers

LD0302195694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] On the third day of the sacred 10 Days of Dawn celebrations, during which praise is given to martyrs, disabled, men missing in action, and prisoners of war, thousands of military commanders and model units of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army ground forces this afternoon participated in a glorious ceremony at the holy shrine of the founder of the Islamic revolution, where they renewed their alliance with the lofty ideas of His Excellency imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and also emphasised the need to execute the orders of Commander in Chief Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Hojjat ol-eslam val-moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni spoke at the meeting, which was held to praise the martyrs of the Islamic revolution, and also for thanksgiving prayers for the passing of the assassination danger against our country's president. Those attending also thanked the commanders and personnel of the Army for their services in guarding the boundaries of the Islamic motherland and the school of Koran.

Referring to the assassination attempt against the president, Khomeyni said: The Islamic revolution does not depend on an individual, and assassination or terror among the people will fail to deviate the revolution from its principle path.

Authorities Admit to Disturbances in Southeast

PM0402103594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 94 pp1, 4

[Safa Ha'iri report: "Sectarian Disturbances in Baluchistan; Fatalities in Iran after Confrontations with the 'Guards']

[Text] Paris—The Iranian authorities yesterday admitted the occurrence of disturbances in the province of Baluchistan southeast of the country and accused "counterrevolutionary elements" of organizing these disturbances the day before yesterday. According to media reports, these disturbances resulted in numerous casualties, including dead and wounded.

According to several sources, the disturbances in Zahedan began after rumors that the authorities had demolished a Sunni mosque in the town of Mashhad northeast of Iran triggering fear among observers that the disturbances might assume a sectarian dimension.

Observers say that news of the disturbances coincided with the shooting incident as President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was delivering a speech during the celebrations marking the 15th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. They note that the two incidents indicate that the regime is going through a difficult phase.

It has been reported from Zahedan that forces of the "Revolutionary Guards" clashed with demonstrators who occupied government buildings, removed the flags from them, and destroyed military vehicles belong to the Revolutionary Guards. The clashes lasted four hours and resulted in the death of dozens of demonstrators and the injury of no less that 400 others.

The demonstrators used sticks and stones and the Revolutionary Guards responded with tear gas bombs and gunfire in the direction of the demonstrators.

Eyewitnesses say that the clashes began when forces of the Revolutionary Guards stormed a mosque where worshippers were listening to antiregime speeches after hearing the news of the demolition of the Sunni mosque in Mashhad. They add that the mosque as well as buildings and shops in the Khayyam street, where the clashes were concentrated, sustained material damage.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, informed sources expressed fear that the Zahedan incidents could be serious in view of the fact that the province is adjacent to the Pakistani borders and the fact that they occurred after the authorities reinforced their forces on these borders. Some media organs close to the regime have recently stressed the need to "foil the terrorist acts which the enemies of the revolution were preparing to perpetrate in Baluchistan."

The same sources also drew attention to the Foreign Ministry's reaction to the disturbances as "a plot hatched by counterrevolutionaries with foreign links." The ministry's statement spoke of the arrest of a number of demonstrators but the sources were unable to say how many were arrested.

Foreign Ministry Official Comments on Turkish Raid

NC0302145894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] As you heard in the news, the head of the team of experts sent to Iran by Turkey confirmed that the shrapnel found in the Iranian border areas is from cluster bombs of the Turkish Air Force. Our correspondent has prepared a report on the operation carried out by the Turkish Air Force in northern Iraq, during which some bombs fell on two border villages of our country, killing and wounding some of our compatriots:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Following the incident, meetings were held between Iranian and Turkish diplomatic officials. In a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Turkish foreign minister expressed his regret over this incident and dispatched a team of experts to the area, including some officials from the Turkish Foreign Ministry and the joint headquarters of the Turkish Armed Forces, to investigate the matter.

After two days of investigation and inquiry in the area, this team announced the results of its survey yesterday. The head of the Turkish delegation confirmed that shrapnel found in the Iranian border areas was from the Turkish cluster bombs used by the Turkish Air Force last Friday. A statement was signed by the two sides and named The Report of the Joint Inquiry Commission. We interviewed 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, the deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, regarding this incident and the repercussions of such occurrences on reciprocal relations, which you will now hear:

[Borujerdi] All evidence points to the fact—especially in view of the large number of fighter planes that participated in these operations and the close proximity of the PKK [Workers' Party of Kurdistan] centers on Iraqi territory to our villages—that there was no definite intent to attack our territory. We have signed a statement because the rockets and bombs fell on our soil and the Turkish side has repeatedly expressed its extreme regret during the past two days.

Turkish officials have announced that they are willing to compensate for the losses, which is quite natural. I believe that with the cooperation of the two sides, we will be able to attain results. This incident is a source of immense regret for all. Foreign Ministry officials express their condolences to the families of the victims. We hope that we can defend our national interests with regard to this incident.

[Correspondent] What kind of bad effects can such incidents have on bilateral relations?

[Borujerdi] It is natural that negative incidents can have concomitant deleterious effects. It is important that such incidents be prevented in the future. I have clearly brought this up with the Turkish ambassador. We have officially requested of the Turkish Government that if they carry out any military operations in the future they should do so after careful study so that there is no encroachment on our soil. [end recording]

Turkey Offers Compensation

LD0302222094 Tehran IRNA in English 2051 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Ankara, Feb. 3, IRNA—Turkey is ready to compensate for the losses inflicted on the Iranian borders as a result of the air raid last Friday, Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said here today.

"Unfortunately we were informed that some mistake had occurred during the operation of the Turkish fighters in northern Iraq last Friday, and resulted in losses in man and material on Iran. We are deeply sorry for the incident," Cetin told IRNA in an interview here.

He said relations between the two countries are so strong and friendly which can settle all the difficulties. No issue can affect the two countries' relations, he added, stressing "there was no intention behind the incident."

Peoples of Iran and Turkey have been living together without any unpleasant problems for centuries, besides, expansion of Tehran-Ankara cooperation not only would serve the interests of the two nations, but would have very positive impacts on the regional developments, Cetin said.

Turkish warplanes attacked bases of the opposition guerrillas 110 kms. deep inside Iraq last Friday, during which rural areas in Sardasht border region were also bombed, and 28 Iranians were killed and wounded.

In addition to the two countries cooperation within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Cetin said implementation of the gas transfer projects from Central Asia to Turkey and Europe via Iran, as well as transfer of the Iranian gas to the world markets via Turkey would play a major role in the expansion of ties and cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Baqeri met with Cetin earlier in the day and conveyed a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the issue.

Velayati in his message stressed that Iran really expects the Turkish Government to compensate for the losses in addition to making a formal apology over the incident.

Velayati Arrives in Greece; Talks Previewed

LD0402115494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] The Greek foreign minister has described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a very important regional power. Welcoming our country's foreign minister at Athens airport, Karolos Papoulias described Velayati's

visit to Greece as important. He said that issues relating to the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Central Asia, and the Balkans will be discussed at their talks.

Velayati left Bucharest for Athens last night, at the end of his two-day visit to Romania. Before leaving Bucharest he separately met and conferred with the Romanian president and parliament speakers. During the meetings President Ion Iliescu and the speakers of the Romanian parliament expressed gladness about the failure of the attempt on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's life. They stressed the importance of the expansion of Tehran-Bucharest ties.

According to an IRNA report Ion Iliescu reiterated the grounds for cooperation between the two countries and emphasized Iran's role in Central Asia and the Persian Gulf region. He invited Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay a visit to Romania.

Also, at a news conference, Velayati expressed gladness about the visit. He said that during his meetings with Iliescu he had submitted a verbal message from Hashemi-Rafsanjani to him.

Objectives of Mubarak's Visit to Turkey Discussed

NC0402051194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 2 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Mubarak's Visit to Turkey"]

[Text] President Mubarak arrived in Ankara at the head of a delegation for a one-day working visit on 1 February. He returned to Cairo after holding talks with President Demirel and several other officials on the same day. The press release issued after his talks said the sides agreed on the need to improve their mutual cooperation in every field. It said that the sides agreed to make a joint effort to contribute toward the establishment of peace in the Middle East and the Balkan region and help Iraq maintain its territorial integrity.

President Mubarak was visiting Turkey for the third time since 1985. His recent visit has unveiled the nature of relations and contacts between Ankara and Cairo. Obviously, the aim was to improve bilateral political, economic, cultural, and military relations. The cooperation between Turkey and Egypt is important because of their situation in the region and relations with the Zionist regime. President Ezer Weizman visited Turkey for four days last week. In a statement in Ankara, he said that cooperation among Israel, Turkey, and Egypt will determine the future of the Middle East.

Several political experts are convinced that the intensive diplomatic contacts among the three countries may be a prelude to the signing of an agreement on developments in the region. Undoubtedly, the United States will support that agreement, which will enable the leaders of Egypt, Turkey, and the Zionist regime to establish a common policy to protect themselves against threats. Undoubtedly, the main threat against Turkey, Egypt, and the Zionist regime is the strengthening and spreading of Islam and Islamic activities.

Another aspect of relations between Turkey and Egypt is aimed at creating the conditions required for the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab countries and the removal of the Arab embargo on the Zionist regime. In view of that, political experts are convinced that promoting and strengthening relations among Egypt, Turkey, and Israel are aimed at placing limits on independent policies and slowing down and reducing the progress of Islamic movements in the region.

Rafsanjani, Brunei Sultan To Discuss Islamic Topics

LD0302202894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Excerpts] Sir Hassanal Bolkiah, sultan of Brunei Darussalam, and his delegation arrived in Tehran this evening. Our correspondent reports: [passage omitted]

Upon his arrival to Tehran, Mr. Bolkiah said that the expansion of relations in all fields was the most important aim of his visit to our country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke on the visit of the sultan of Brunei, saying:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] Brunei is an Islamic country, its people are committed Muslims, and its government and people are all Muslims and our brothers.

In our foreign policy we give priority to Islamic countries. I had asked the esteemed sultan of Brunei to visit Iran to discuss common religious issues and the current situation in the world of Islam, which necessitates cooperation among Islamic countries. Also his excellency can become more familiar with Iran and we can get to know Brunei better. We can also assess any kind of cooperation which may exist between us and Brunei. In any case, we believe that further cooperation among Islamic countries is in the interests of Muslims and their countries. We hope to pave the way for further cooperation and become closer to each other. [end recording]

Further Cooperation Welcomed

LD0302234094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] During their talks Thursday night [3 February], the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Sultan of Brunei discussed and exchanged views on the latest world developments, regional issues, and bilateral cooperation between Iran and Brunei.

During the talks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Hassanal Bolkiah for visiting Iran and expressed the hope that mutual cooperation would further deepen in all cultural, political, economic and technical fields.

The president added: Our foreign policy gives a particular priority to cooperation with Islamic countries—your country is one of them—and that is a very good factor for the further expansion of cooperation between us. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We are aware of your satisfactory stances vis-a-vis the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina at the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. We hope to be able to increase the ICO activities.

Our country's president pointed out the existence of the Association of South East Asian Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization in the two mainly Muslim regions, and described cooperation between Iran and Brunei as an effective factor that can contribute toward further cooperation between the two regions.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also stressed the need for the two countries' cooperation in the oil and gas industries and announced Iran's readiness to help Brunei with its technical and scientific needs in those industries. The president also welcomed the two countries' cooperation in cultural and artistic fields.

Then the Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah, thanked our country's president for his kind remarks and praised the certain and valuable status of the Islamic Republic of Iran at global levels and said: Brunei has always supported Iran's principled and progressive stance in international circles and believes itself in such stances.

He added: We cooperate very well within the ICO and the Non-Aligned Movement. We have always condemned the aggression against the Bosnian Muslims and are ready to help them. We are ready to cooperate in the oil and gas industries and hope to be able to witness the expansion of relations between the two countries in all fields, particularly cultural fields.

Turkey Urged To Explain Military Operations on Border

NC0302171994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 2 Feb 94

[Unattributed commentary: "The Visit of Turkish Experts to Iran's Border]

[Text] Turkish military aircraft fired rockets and dropped bombs on several of the villages affiliated with Sar Dasht on Iran's border with Iraq on Friday, 28 January. Some 28 people were either killed or wounded as a result of the air attack. Meanwhile, significant damage was done in the villages.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry officials contacted their counterparts in Turkey and expressed concern over the incident. They also urged Turkey to offer a convincing explanation for the operation. Turkish officials rejected the claims that the attack on Iranian villages was preplanned by the Turkish Government and stressed that the target of the air attack was the Kurdish Workers Party camps in northern Iraq. However, the disclosure made by Deputy Foreign Minister Borujerdi after his meeting with the Turkish ambassador in Tehran indicated that Iran's officials wanted Turkey to seriously assess the matter. Undoubtedly, a more detailed assessment could be made if Turkey decides to dispatch a delegation to study the situation in the bombed areas and visit the wounded people.

According to the political experts, the Turkish officials must provide a convincing explanation about the attack on Iran's border. This is necessary because Turkey and Iran have common borders. Furthermore, they are very sensitive about the maintenance of border security and stability. That is confirmed by the talks the Turkish and Iranian committees have held on border security during the past 18 months. Obviously, the Iranian Foreign Ministry officials' call for an inquiry into this incident can be described as an initiative based on good-neighborly relations.

However, that approach can only be maintained if the Turkish officials seriously consider the magnitude of their military operations against opposition forces and avoid any move that may harm the cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

Tehran Comments on Algerian General, Clashes

NC0302161794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] As you have heard in the news, clashes have escalated between Algerian Government forces and the Islamist opponents of the regime. According to a report disseminated by the Algerian Government, seven people were killed in one of these clashes. Unofficial neutral sources announced yesterday that ever since General Liamine Zeroual assumed power as surrogate president of the former Ruling Council, nearly 60 people have been killed in clashes between government forces and antiregime opponents.

According to political observers, the intensification of the conflict in Algeria has further reduced any hopes of a political solution to the country's crisis. In his first speech after his appointment by the former coupist council, General Zeroual promised the Algerian people that the way would be paved for a political solution to the country's crisis by initiating a dialogue with opponents.

These observers believe that the current trend in Algeria is no different than that which prevailed in the era of the former Ruling Council and that there are no indications that the government intends to resolve the political

crisis. The release of political prisoners, the lifting of the state of emergency, and the change of approach toward opposing groups and factions are among the factors that could pave the way for a solution to the multifaceted crisis in Algeria.

If the newly appointed government of General Zeroual wishes to tread the same path blazed by the former Ruling Council in its attitude to opponents, it will certainly face a crisis and will not have a better fate than the members of the former Ruling Council, who were forced to step down at the beginning of this week.

The use of the military has never been effective in resolving a widespread political crisis, and the newly appointed Algerian Government is being forced by the insolvent economy to adopt a quick political solution. For the past few days, the Algerian Government has been announcing to all its creditors that it cannot pay its foreign debts, which only confirms its bankruptcy.

Afghan Official Urges Iran To Send Refugees Help

LD0302155894 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA—Heshmatollah Mujeddedi here today called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to send relief aid to Afghan refugees in southern deserts of Afghanistan.

Mujeddedi, who is here at the head of a delegation from Afghanistan's Supreme Islamic revolution Coordination Council, in a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific, Ala'ddin Borujerdi, expressed regrets over the ongoing clashes in Afghanistan.

He also thanked Iran for its efforts to end clashes in Afghanistan and urged the Iranian officials to continue their efforts to put an end to the hostilities.

Borujerdi said that as before Tehran would do all it can to provide the Afghan refugees with their requirements.

He expressed concern over the present situation in Afghanistan and said Iran would spare no efforts to help Afghanistan solve its problems.

Velayati Meets Romanian Counterpart in Bucharest

LD0302195294 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] Bucharest, Feb. 3, IRNA—Iranian and Romanian foreign ministers discussed issues relevant to the security and unity of the European countries as well as developments in central Asia in their second round of talks here today.

A source close to the talks said that Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Viorel Melescanu had raised the issue of cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which grouped Iran and nine neighbours, and the Organization of the Black Sea Littoral States.

The two decided the issue should be followed up by the secretariats of the two organizations, the source added.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Romanian counterpart inked two political and trade agreements as well as a plan on the scientific, educational, cultural and art exchanges at the end of the meeting.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Velayati said the agreements reached by the two countries showed that the two were keen to further expand their ties.

Asked about the attempted assassination against President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last Tuesday, Velayati condemned terrorism, and expressed pleasure that the terrorist act had failed.

He also said that Islamic Iran would spare no efforts in the way of the establishment of a just and honorable peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Pakistan

Bhutto Explains Remarks on Kashmir, Other Issues

BK0302161994 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, said she has put across the Pakistan case on Kashmir, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other international issues in Davos and Geneva very strongly. This enhanced the image of Pakistan in the international community. She was addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon on her return after a week-long visit abroad. [passage omitted]

The prime minister said she raised the Kashmir issue at the Human Rights Commission as she had promised to the people of Pakistan and Kashmir. It is Pakistan's basic policy to repeatedly shake the world conscience about the Indian repression in Kashmir. She told the world assembly that India's allegations about Pakistan's interference in occupied Kashmir are totally baseless and wrong because about 700 Indian soldiers are deployed at every one km distance along the line of control. India has, thus, raised an iron wall on the border.

When asked about threats coming from across the border, the prime minister said we are not afraid of them as Pakistan is capable of defending itself. She pointed out that these threats show that the Indian case on Kashmir is weak and it does not wants a political solution. She said the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is an international dispute and both India and Pakistan are committed to a plebiscite there. To a question, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said while agreeing to talks with India,

Pakistan sent a clear signal to India that Pakistan believes in talks and there is a government in Pakistan which can settle the Kashmir issue, but these talks will be successful only if the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir is improved. The prime minister said India failed to respond positively to repeated Pakistani proposals for ending atrocities in Kashmir. That is why we had to go to international forums. She said she told the Indian foreign secretary during his visit to Pakistan that India should take visible steps in the valley, including the release of Kashmiri leaders, reduction of the Indian forces, and stopping the killings. The prime minister said Pakistan even now is ready for talks with India on the Kashmir issue, but first India should end repression in Kashmir. [passage omitted]

Notes Other Issues

BK0302153794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 Feb 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said she has most strongly and positively put across the Pakistan case on Kashmir issue, situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other international issues in Davos and Geneva. Addressing a news conference at Islamabad Airport today on her return from a week-long tour of Davos, Geneva, Zagreb, and Sarajevo Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the image of Pakistan in the international community has been enhanced. We were able to project the positive image of Pakistan on the question of investment climate, our just stand on Kashmir, and on expression of solidarity with the Bosnian Muslims. Pakistan has achieved the objective of drawing world attention toward human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and the plight of the Bosnian Muslims.

The prime minister said according to her promise to the people of Pakistan and Kashmir, she presented the Kashmir case before the Human Rights Commission. It is Pakistan's basic policy to repeatedly arouse the world conscience over Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. Replying to questions on threats from Indian leaders, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said no amount of threats or intimidation can deter us from our principled stand on Kashmir and support to the Kashmiri people's right of self-determination. We are fully capable of defending our integrity against any aggression, she added.

To another question, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said while agreeing to the talks with India, we have sent a powerful signal to New Delhi that Pakistan believes in talks. We also wanted to tell the world that there is a government in Pakistan, which despite strong domestic pressures, is capable of taking even unpopular decisions in the larger interests of peace. Pakistan, she added, cannot be expected to be engaged in talks with India in an atmosphere where the Kashmiri people may feel that we are colluding with Indian repressions. She said a resolution is being moved in the Human Rights Commission for violations in Kashmir. Pakistan has conveyed to the world that it is not a matter of number to win maximum votes, but it is a matter of principle. She said special envoys are being sent to various countries to muster support.

On the investment climate, Ms. Benazir Bhutto was hopeful for a boost in foreign investment in Pakistan in the wake of the new atmosphere of political and economic stability prevailing in the country. She said foreign investors are also going to open a Pakistan Trade Center in Zurich to get international market for Pakistani products.

On her visit to Sarajevo, the prime minister said she and Turkish Prime Minister Madam Tansu Ciller succeeded in diverting world attention toward the plight of Bosnian people. Narrating the woeful human rights situation in Bosnia, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said people are getting sick and weak. They have no food, no medicine, no water, and no electricity. We salute the brave people of Bosnia who are living in a very difficult situation, but are fighting for their independence and territorial integrity.

Parliamentarian To Deliver Message to Iraq's Saddam

BK0302135394 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 3 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Shakil Sheikh]

[Text] Islamabad: MNA [Member of the National Assembly] Asif Ali Zardari will proceed to Banghdad on February 9 as prime minister's special envoy to make arrangements for the release of three Pakistanis who have been sentenced to jail in Iraq.

During his three-day visit, Zardari will be accompanied by Foreign Secretary Shaharyar M. Khan and Bashir Riaz, a former press spokesman of the prime minister.

According to informed sources, the special envoy will deliver a written message of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for the release of two armed forces personnel, employed by the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) and one civilian.

All of them had lost their way and strayed into the Iraqi territory during the Gulf war and the Iraqi authorities awarded six to eight years sentences to them.

Utilising this first hight-level Pak-Iraq contact since the Gulf war which resulted in total devastation of Iraq, Pakistan is sending 10 to 14 tons of life-saving drugs, worth Rs[rupees] 2 million in a special C-180 flight as a special humanitarian gesture to the Iraqi people. The same plane will also carry the delegation.

High level official sources told 'The News' that the delegation would remain in Baghdad from February 9 to 11. During its stay the delegation will hold meetings with President Saddam Husayn and several other Iraqi government leaders in an apparent bid to remove unnecessary tritants in the Pak-Iraq relationships including the imprisonment of the three Pakistanis.

It is learnt that spadework for the Zardari-headed delegation has already been done. A C-130 aircraft is being loaded with life-saving drugs the list of which was said to have been provided by the Iraqi authorities.

Foreign Office sources say that the Zardari mission will prove a great success as it will secure release of the Pakistanis and would also help remove irritants between the two Muslim countries, besides reactivating traditional relations between Pakistan and Iraq.

Earlier, communicaitons exchanged between the two countries revealed that Iraqi leadership is pleased and deeply touched by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's gesture in nominating her husband as special envoy. Pakistan's ambassador to Iraq had already held lengthy deliberations with Iraqi Foreign Secretary Abdul Jabbar Al-Douri.

The Iraqi response to a request from Pakistan for the release of its three nationals is reported to be 'highly encouraging' Iraqi government has also shown its eagerness to welcome the Pakistani special envoy on his arrival in Baghdad. Iraq also views it as 'welcome opportunity for dialogue' at a high level.

JANG Reports on Moves To Sue U.S. for Plane Deliveries

BK0302150994 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 3 Feb 94 pp 8,6

[By special reporter]

[Text] Islamabad—According to responsible sources, it has been decided after high-level consultations to file a case in the U.S. court through Pakistan's American legal adviser if the F-16 fighter planes, P3C and N [as published] fighter planes, and other defense equipment manufactured [for Pakistan] and being stored in the United Sates are not supplied to Pakistan by April. Pakistan has so far paid the United States $1.01 billion for the defense equipment. If the equipment is not supplied by April, then Pakistan's American legal adviser will be directed to take this legitimate case to the court to seek a clarification as to why the equipment was not sent to Pakistan despite the fact that Pakistan already paid for them.

The sources said that the legal adviser whose services were sought by Pakistan in the United States has completed preparation of documents on the U.S. failure to supply the defense equipment on schedule despite Pakistan fulfilling all the obligations under the deal. The U.S. legal expert has informed the Government of Pakistan that despite the existence of the Pressler Amendment, Pakistan's case in relation to the defense items is very strong. If this case is filed at a U.S. court, then it can easily be proven that agreements—liabilities of which Pakistan had been fulfilling even after the implementation of the Pressler Amendment in October 1990—are not covered by the amendment.

The sources said that when the opinion of the U.S. legal adviser was ignored by the United States and the proposal for an intergovernmental group to sort out the relevant legal issues was rejected, Pakistani policymakers then decided to wait until April to allow fulfillment of the U.S. promise of taking political steps to do away with the discriminatory nature of the Pressler Amendment. The sources said that Pakistan paid a total of $1.01 billion to the United States for these defense items. The funds were not taken as a loan, but were paid to the United States in installments from the Pakistani exchequer.

According to the deal, Pakistan should have received 12 F-16 planes for its Air Force, three P3C planes for its Navy, and other defense equipment produced for Pakistan by now. The United States, however, is consistently saying that the U.S. military aid to Pakistan has been suspended under the Pressler Amendment and that the equipment will be supplied to Pakistan after the Pressler Amendment issue is resolved. The sources said that Pakistan has informed the United States at the diplomatic level that it is being questioned by Pakistani public opinion as to why the defense equipment cannot be obtained from the United States even after Pakistan paid $1.01 billion for them.

Daily on U.S. Ties, Supply of Planes

BK0302163894 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 3 Feb 94 p 3

[Editorial: "F-16 Planes Will Be Available Soon"]

[Text] Federal Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has said that our relations with the United States are improving. The supply of F-16 planes and other equipment, which were withheld due to the Pressler Amendment, will begin soon. Pakistan has already paid the United States $1 billion for the F-16 planes. Pakistan is also trying to acquire arms from France and the PRC to fortify its defense. The possibility of acquiring F-16 planes and other equipment from the United States is viewed as an indication of improving relations between the two countries. Pakistan also can purchase the equipment necessary for its defense from the open market. However, if they can be obtained from the United States or any other friendly country, then their uninterrupted supply can be assured. Pakistan is not oblivious of its defense requirements even for a moment and is meeting its defense needs on a priority basis.

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